MY HEAVENLY HOCKEY CLUB
8
AI MORINAGA

My Heavenly Hockey Club

8

Ai Morinaga

Translated and adapted by Athena Nibley and Alethea Nibley
Lettered by Narth Market Street Graphics

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Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

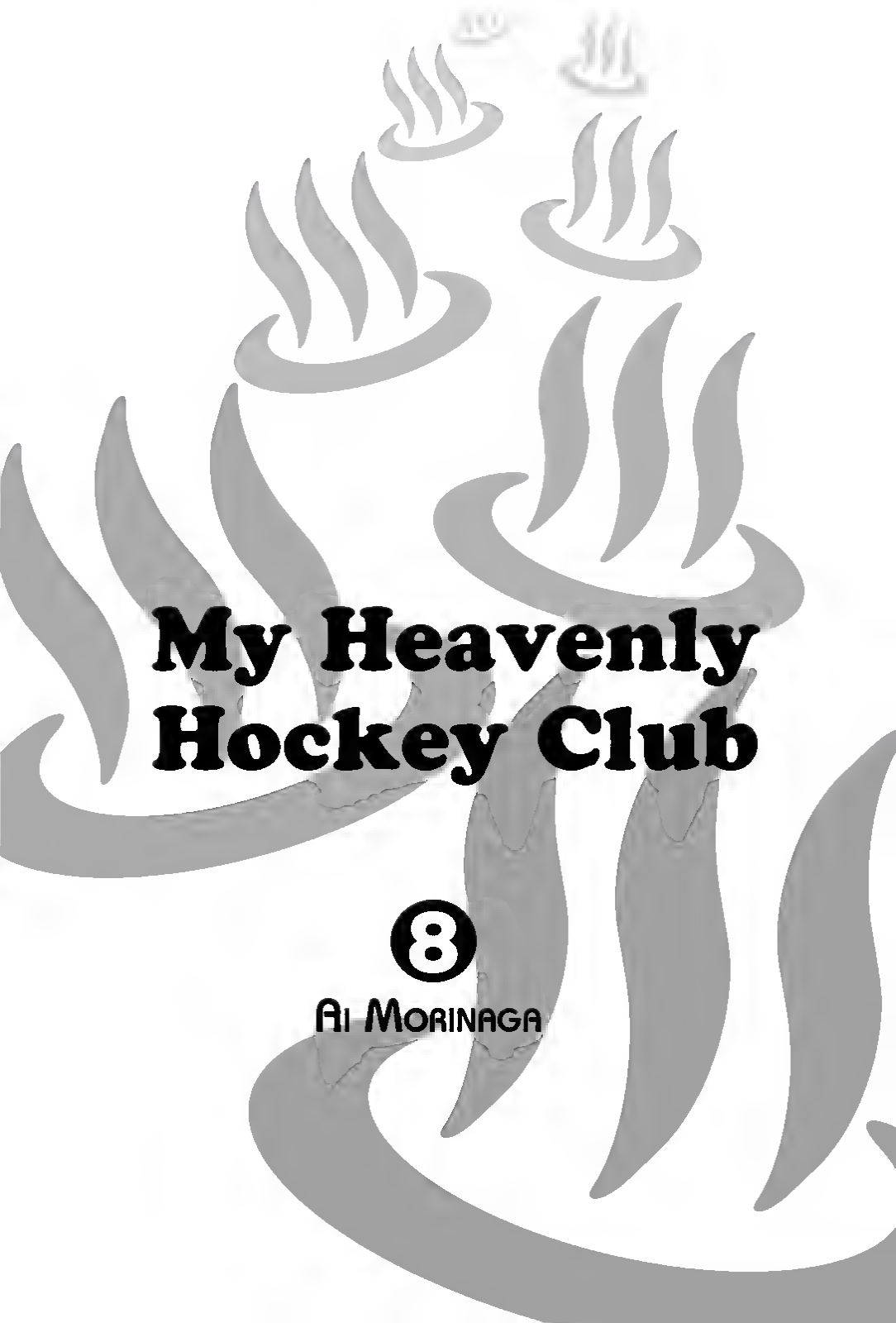
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

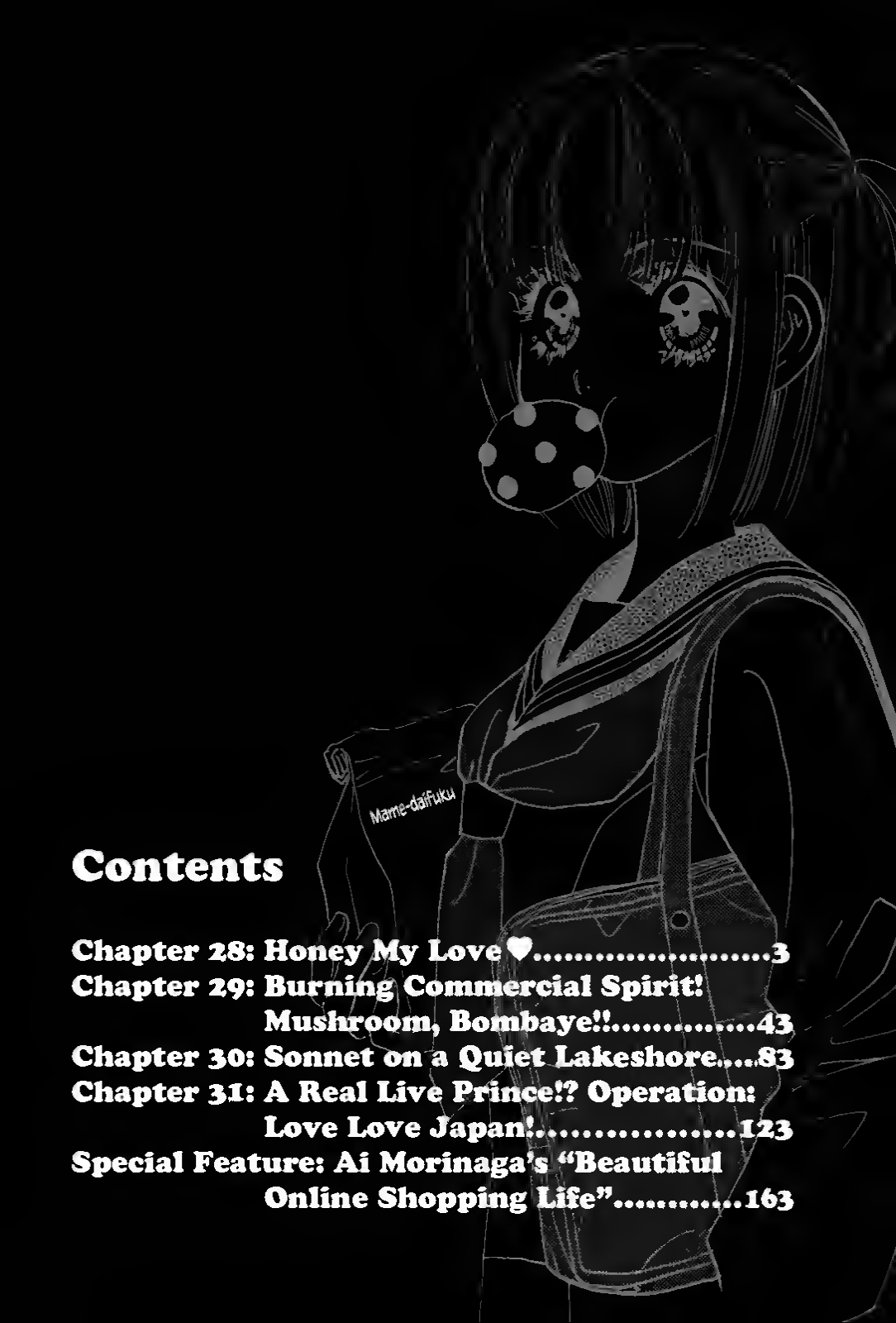
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



My Heavenly Hockey Club

8

Ai Morinaga



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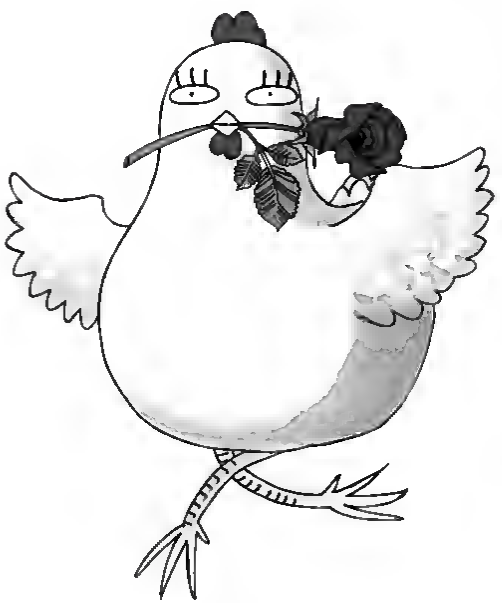
Chapter 28: Honey My Love♥



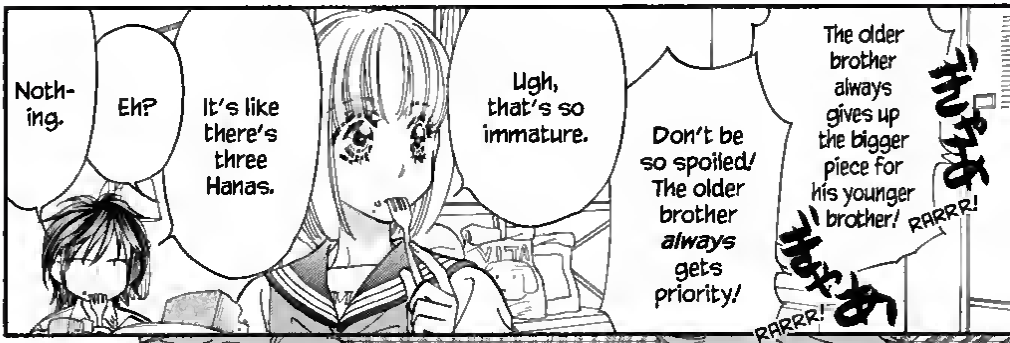
Good for you, Wacky. You got a new nest.
She's probably relieved that her arch-nemeses Mar-tan and Seimei are gone.
Agreed.
She sure is taking it easy.
Bakaaaawk!
Bock bock bock

I'm surprised he hasn't been fired.
Who knows?
We haven't seen Mar-tan since then. What's he doing?
Mar-tan and Seimei
Jingle
Contrite
Meanwhile, in Paris
Our snack for today is Kitakaro baumkuchen.
Mom brought it home from Hokkaido.
Yaaaaay♡

Suuuuiiiiik
Huff huff
Hurry, hurry!
I'll go cut it. I'll only be a minute.
I'm not fighting!
Bill of Passage
What's with you guys? You fighting or something?
What are talking about? You cheated.
Really, I'm a millimeter taller!
Kinta's just sulking because I got taller than him.

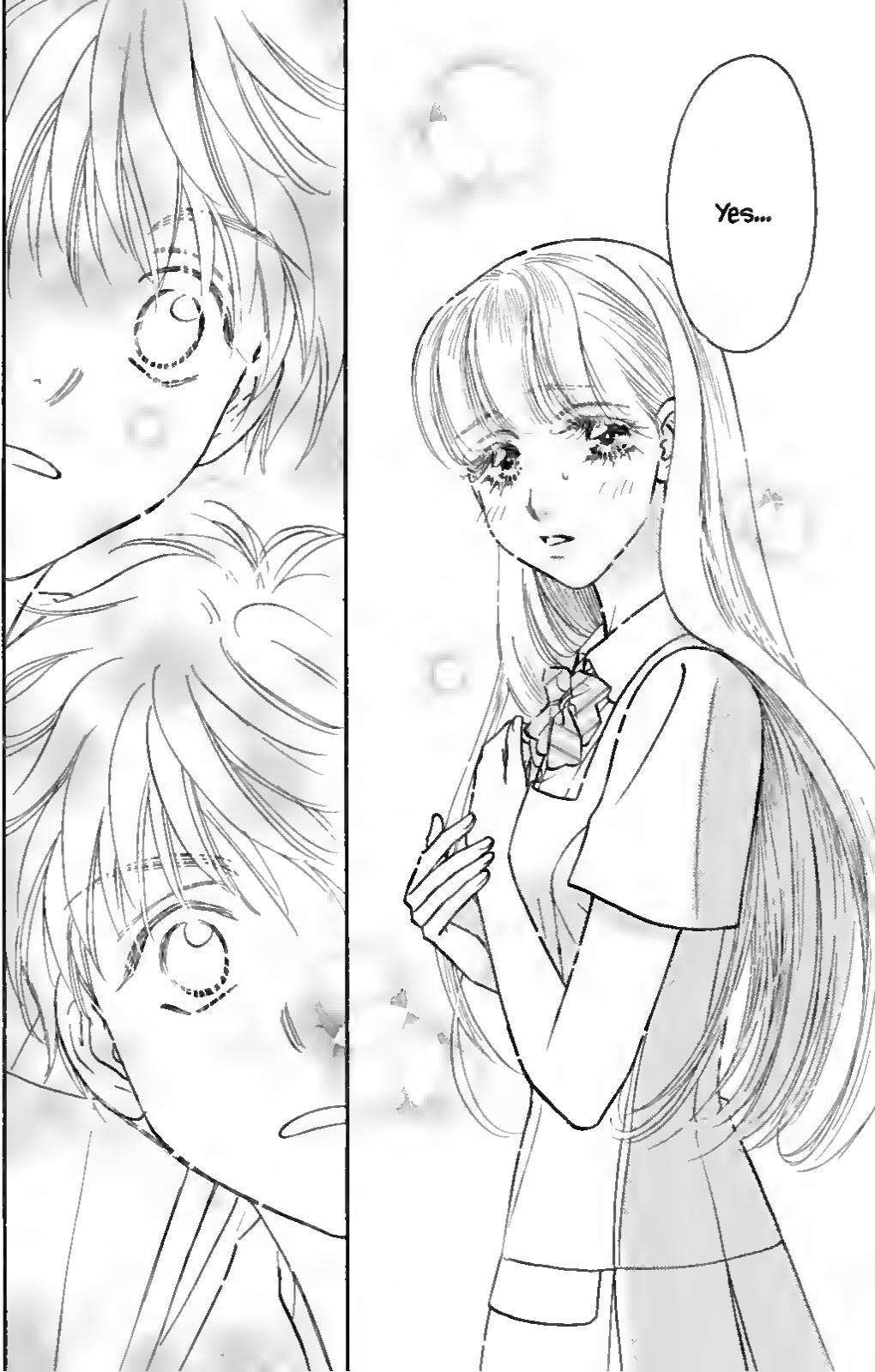
You just told me to fatten up and get some flab!
Ah! Kinta! Don't take the bigger piece!

Now, now. Here, I've cut the baumkuchen.
What's that!?
If you hate it so much, then why don't you fatten up and add some extra flab to the soles of your feet and your scalp?
It'd make you a little taller.


Noth-ing.
Eh?
It's like there's three Hanas.
Ugh, that's so immature.
Don't be so spoiled! The older brother always gets priority!
The older brother always gives up the bigger piece for his younger brother!
RARRR!
RARRR!

I'd love to!!
Hana-chan!
Now's my chance!
Argh, I can't take this anymore! Let's take this outside!!

Kya!
WHAAAAM!
Field Hockey Club
Field Hockey Club
E-excuse me.
Are you all right?

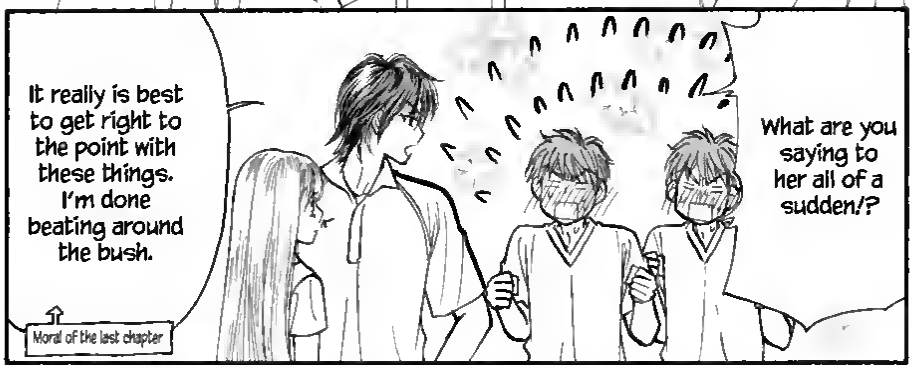

Yes...

Is she from the Ranshin girls' school?
That uniform's not from here.
A middle school student?
Ohh, she's cute. She looks French.
Who's that?
TAP
TAP
TAP
Younger twin?
Older twin?
Hey, what's with you guys?

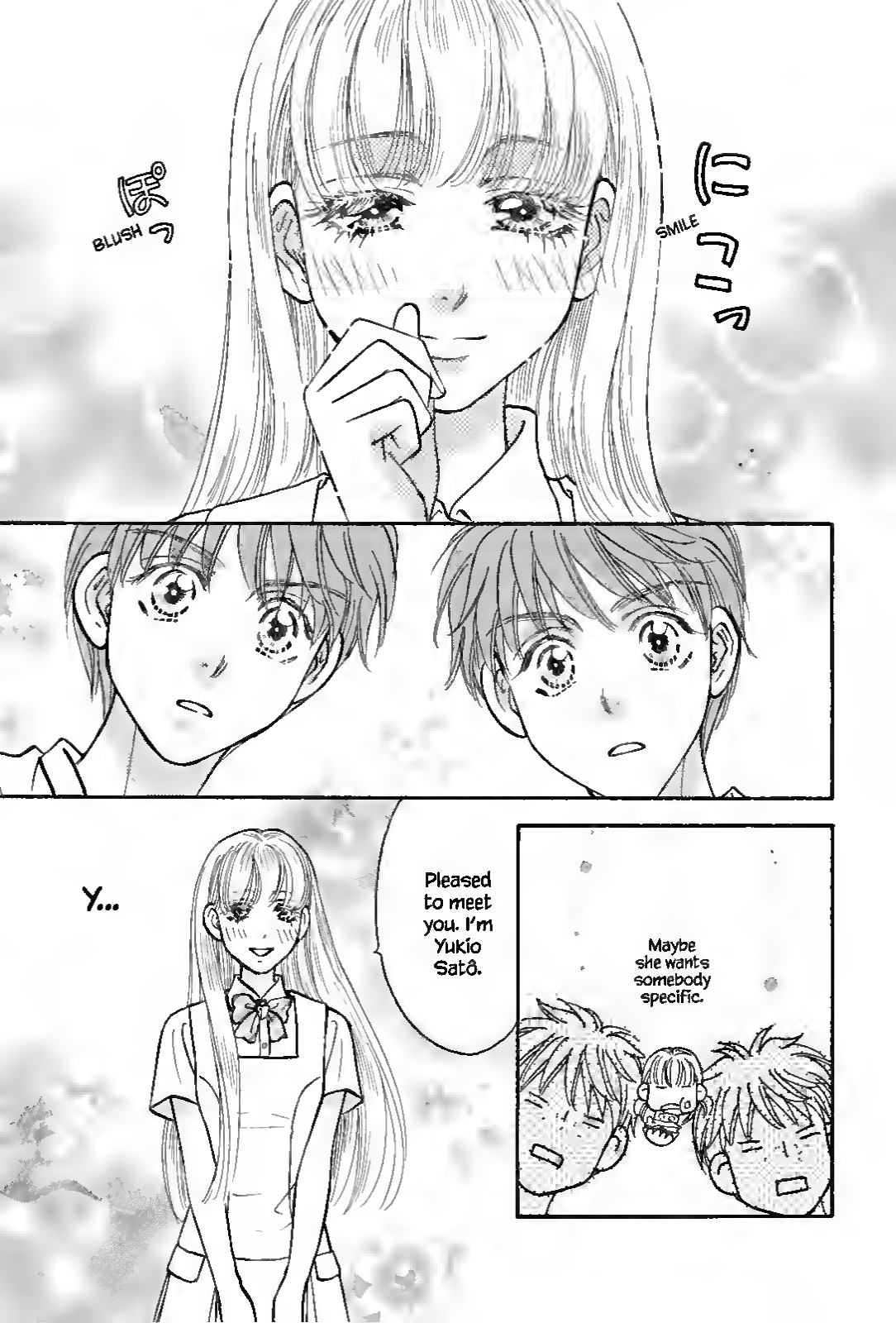
DAAAAAAAZE
CHOMP
CHOMP
Ah.
They really do have the same taste in women.
They do.
So this time they both like the same girl?
She's here again.
Eh!?
Human-Faced Fish

No, me.
Hana-chan. Go one on one with me.
No! You can do it with Izumi-sempai or somebody!
GLANCE
GLANCE
Maybe she wants somebody specific.
Y-you're right. She *is* cute...
I wonder if she wants the hockey club for something.
GRRR
'Cause you're overwhelmingly bad!!!
She'll make them look good
I wanna play with *you*, Hana-chan!!
Ugh. You're hopeless.
You let go! Hana-chan doesn't want to play with you!
Ow! Ow! Ow!
Hey, let go, Ginta!

I-Izumi-sempai!
Aaahh!?
Hey, it looks like they fell in love with you at first sight, so would you go talk to them?
Ayuhara
Ayu


It really is best to get right to the point with these things. I'm done beating around the bush.
Moral of the last chapter
What are you saying to her all of a sudden!?

KI
DO
GLANCE


BLUSH
SMILE
Y...
Pleased to meet you. I'm Yukio Satô.
Maybe she wants somebody specific.

ムン
ERK

Hey, Izumi-sempai.
What are you talking about? She's *obviously* talking to *me*, impudent little rat!
Hey, Ginta! What are you thinking? She's talking to *me*!

Before
You remember what happened before*. Maybe it'd be better to stay out of it?

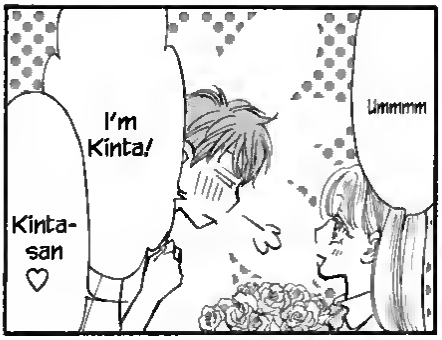
*See volume 4

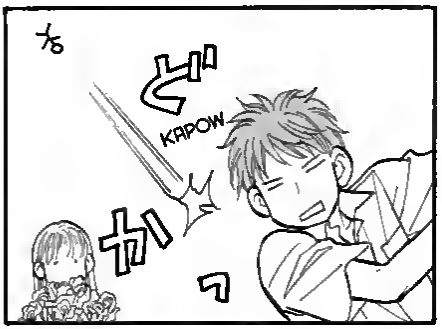
Yessss!!!
I'm Kinta/ Ginta Ayuhara!
Ooohh

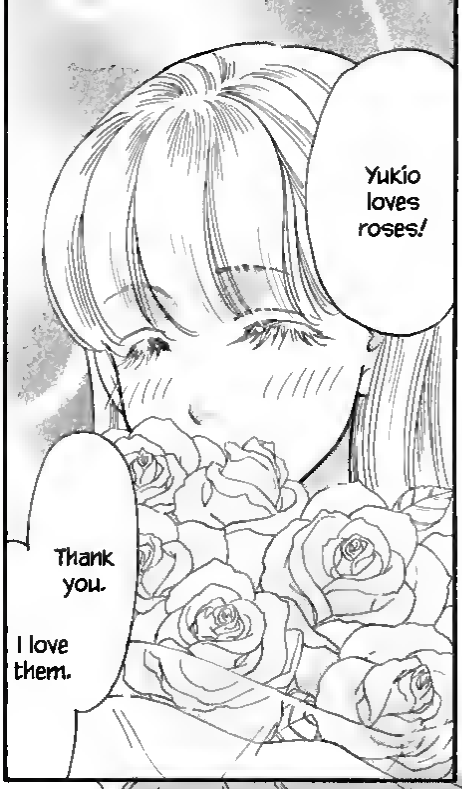
Um.
What's your sign, Kinta-san?
Gemini!
Even if it does go well, one of them's going to be heartbroken.
They're already fighting.
Ergh
SHARP!
Heh heh.
What are you saying? I'm helping *because* last time went so badly!
I can't sleep at night, leaving it like that.
I'm Gemini!
And you, Ginta-san?
What's your blood type?
O!!

Amazing! You're both a perfect match for Yukio. I'm Aquarius, blood type B!
Twins really do have exactly the same compatibility!
Tee hee hee hee

These are for you, Yukio-chan.
I happened to pass by the florist, and they were just so pretty.
Ohh, they're beautiful!
But not as pretty as you, Yukio-chan.


Kinta-san ♡
I'm Kinta!
Ummmm


KAPOW


Yukio loves roses!
Thank you.
I love them.

You're cuter, Yukio-chan.
Ooooh, it's adorable!

I hope you like it.
You said that you like to collect mirrors, right?
Here, Yukio-chan.

Ginta-san ♡
I'm Ginta!
Thank you. I'll treasure it.
Umm
I'm glad you like it!
DREAMY
It really is pretty...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
Does it matter? Apparently they're perfectly compatible.
Is Yukio-chan really coming here to see the Ayuhara brothers?
Kinta, why you—! What the heck are you doing!?
Look who's talking! Stay out of this!
RARRR
RARRR
IRK
IRK
KAPOW
Eh ♡
Perfect timing
Oh yes. Here.
For your hard work.
Itch cream...
Not even considered
A woman in the hockey club that's not me...!!

It's not much as thanks, but this was sent to me from home.
It's Yukio's very favorite food.
Thank you, Yukio-chan!
Grasshopper
tsukudani
♡
Eep!
PACKED
京都
豆
手遊行

You have some, Ginta. You've been saying you need more protein!
K-Kinta, here, have some. They're full of calcium.
SHOVE
SHOVE
Yes! Yukio's grandmother put all her heart into making them. ♡
They're home-made...
Erk!
Grandmother's homemade...
DEAD
しょんぼ!!
...Could it be you don't like them?
Me! Me, too!!
Ginta, why you!
They're my favorite! Favorite! I love it! I'll have some now!

.....
I thought they hated bugs and weird food like that?
Oh, good ♡
Nothing else will do!!
Man, when you preserve something in soy, it has to be grasshoppers!!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
They're crunchy and juicy...
Sometimes it prickles.
How do they taste?
CRAAASH

GLOOOOM
What's the matter? Kinta-san!? Ginta-san!?
Older twin! Younger twin!
Hang in there! Here, have some water!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
You two okay?
...I'm fine. For Yukio-chan, one or two hundred grasshoppers is nothing...
YAAAAWN
Urp!
I remembered...

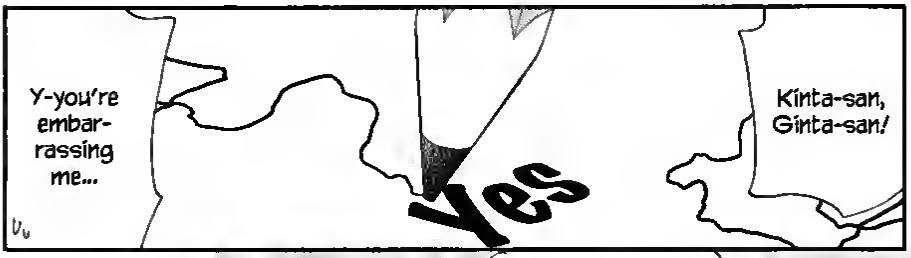
No, it's not that.
No! I know how cute she is, but Yukio-chan is mine!
Izumi-sempai, don't tell me...
Hmmm.
How shall I put it? She's kind of...
But she's a little strange, isn't she?
Hmmm, it's true.
Me too.
I'll pass.
It's true that she's pretty cute, but something just doesn't feel right.
Can't you tell she likes me better!
Wait a second! Who's yours?
Why are you outside?
KA-CHAK
What's the matter, Wacky?
Bakaaawk!
WHAM
WHAM
RARRR
How dare you! She likes me!
What!?
RARRR

草津
Oh.
Hello.
Pardon my intrusion.
It was a little dreary, so I did some decorating as an apology for yesterday.
……!!

SAD
I really am sorry about yesterday.
Y-yeah.
Kinta-san, Ginta-san, are you all right now?
So cute...
Yukio-chan...
TWAAAAANG
Wow. So you did this all by yourself!?
Really?
Don't worry about it. I'm completely fine now!
Yes
No
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Wa Ra Ri Ru Re Ro
Ya Yu Yo
Ma Mi Mu Me Mo
Ha Hi Fu He Ho
Na Ni Nu Ne No
Ta Chi Tsu Te To
Sa Shi Su Se So
Ka Ki Ku Ke Ko
A
N
Oh, we went through a Kokkuri-san phase in the hockey club a while ago.
Um, I found this when I was cleaning.

I ask all kinds of things about boys I like.
It's pretty accurate.
But Yukio prefers the Cupid-sama version.
Really? Yukio does it a lot, too.
If you're here, please go to "yes."
Cupid-sama, Cupid-sama.
STARE
He's here, he's here!
Ah! It moved!
DOKI
DOKI
Nothing.
What is it?

Eh!?
Is Yukio-chan in love with anybody?
Cupid-sama, Cupid-sama


Y-you're embar-rassing me...
Yes
Kinta-san, Ginta-san!

Ki
Then what's his name!?

GH-GH-GH
GH-GH-GH
Hey. You're trying to move it yourself, aren't you?
N
N
N
HRNGH-NGH-NGH-NGH-NGH
GH-GH-GH-GH
You, too, Ginta. No cheating!
Loosen up, Kinta.
GH-GH-GH-GH

Ah.
CLATTER
What are you doing? This is all your fault, Kinta/ Ginta!
Oh, no, what do we do? Cupid-sama will curse us.
.....!
Hana!

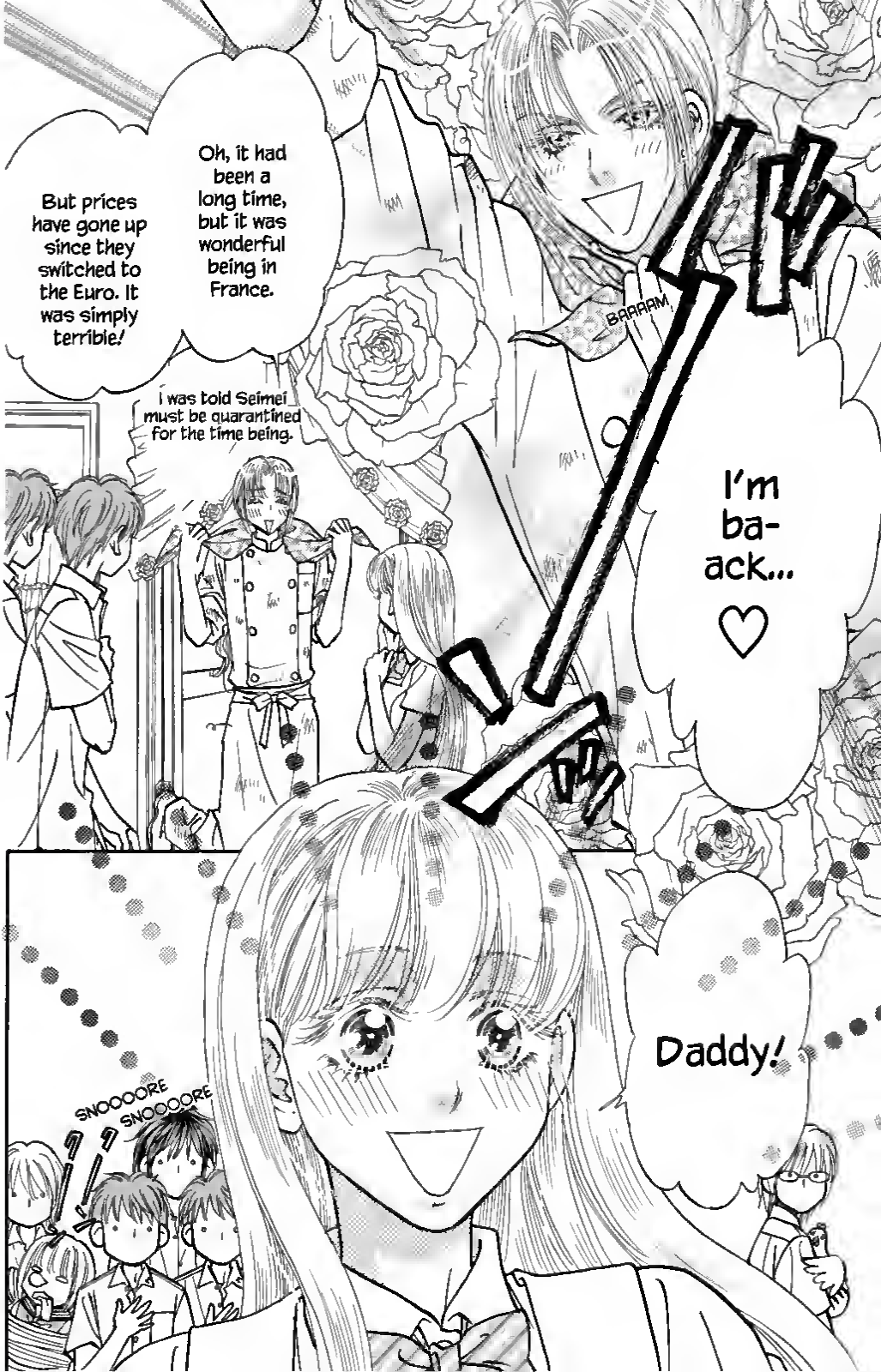
I know this is *you* we're talking about, but you can't!
Wh-what are you doing, Hana? Stop it!
Waaaaaaaaugh!
I-Izumi!
Eeeeeeeek!
CHOMP
CHOMP
Watch out, Yukio-chan! Over here!
Kyaaaaaa!
Get away, evil spirit! Look, over here!
SHAKE
SHAKE
She's possessed! She's possessed! Kan ji zai bo satsu gyou jin han nya ha ra mitsu ta ji shou ken go un kai kuu do itsu sai ku yaku sha ri shi shiki...
BA-BA-BA-BAM
IRK IRK IRK IRK

Kyaaaaaa!?
Bakaaaawk!
SNAP
Yukio-chan!?
KONK
KONK

Kinta-san!
Ginta-san!
Owwww.
Are you all right!? You have chicken tracks on your forehead.
I'm sorry! It's Yukio's fault.
I'm okay. For you, Yukio-chan, this is nothing.
Tch.-I missed.
Yukio-chan, I...
I love...

Y—
Me too! This is nothing, if it's for you, Yukio-chan!!
Dangit, Ginta! Stop getting in my way at the good part!
Ginta-san.
Shut up, Kinta! You're the one getting in the way!
Stay out of this! I like Yukio-chan more!
What are you saying? Obviously I like her way more than you do!
Um
Please stop.
Don't fight over me.
Yukio-chan! Who do you like better? Me or Kinta/ Ginta!?
Grrrr
Huh...?

Yukio-chan, please. Choose me or Kinta!
I love you, Yukio-chan, so I don't want it to be the same just because we're twins.
You're both such nice people, I like you the same.
How could you ask that...?
Come on, Yukio-chan!
Yukio...
Um... But
Feels wonderful...


But prices have gone up since they switched to the Euro. It was simply terrible!
Oh, it had been a long time, but it was wonderful being in France.
I was told Seimei must be quarantined for the time being.
BRRRRM
I'm ba-ack... ♡
Daddy!
SNOOOORE
SNOOOORE

Oh? Yukio? What brings you here?
Well, I hadn't heard from you in so long, I was worried. I didn't know what happened.
Mommy told me not to have anything to do with you, but...
I snuck away to see you.
HUFF HUFF

No, she wouldn't marry me.
You were married, Sensei!?
Daddy!?

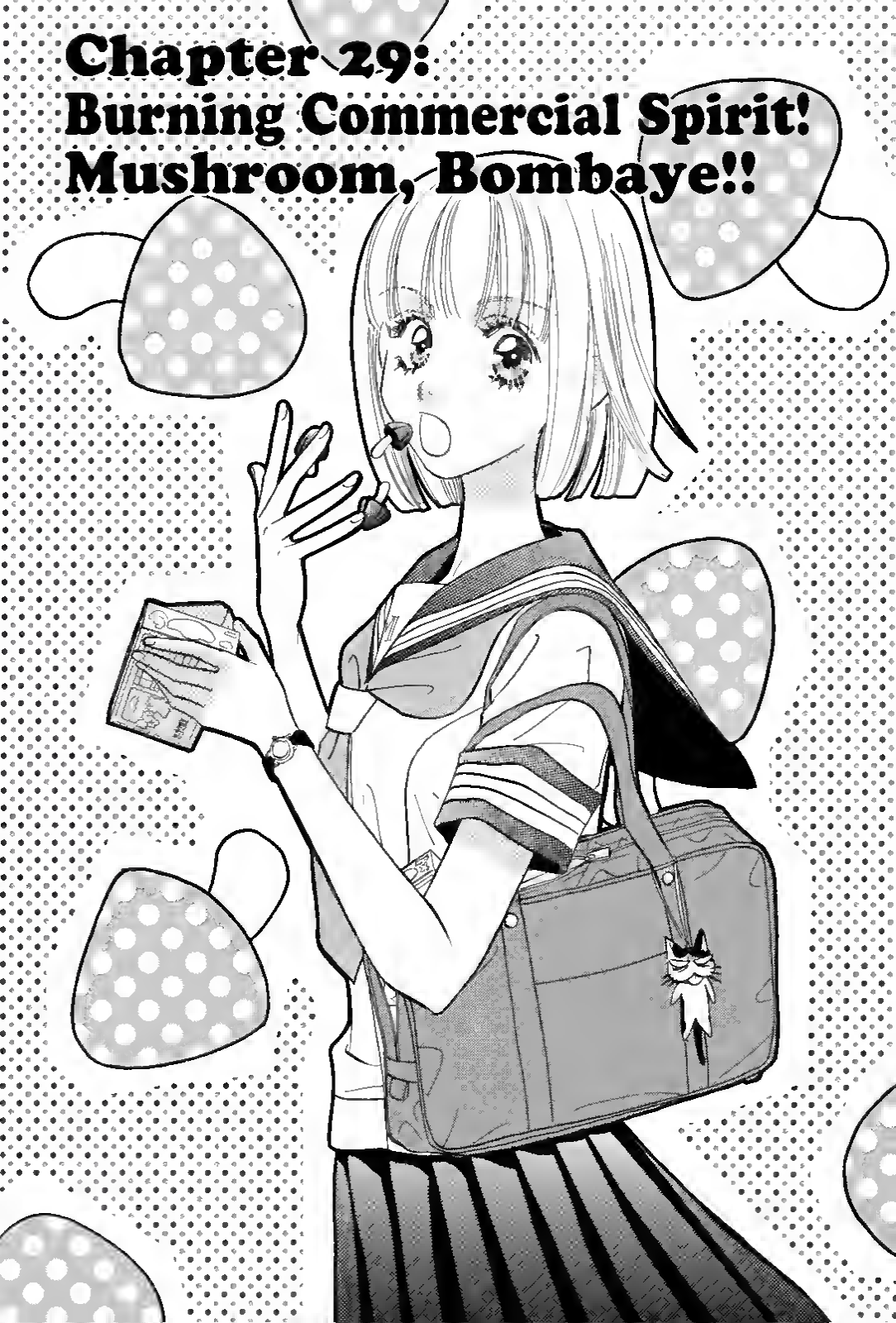
Daddy?

I love roses!!
Ooooh, it's adorable!
DREAMY
Thank you. I love them.
Ah.
Hello. Pardon my intrusion.
Cupid-sama.
Yes 2 3 4 5
No 6 7 8 9
A Ka Sa Ta Na Ha Ma Ra Ya N
Ki Shi Chi Ni Hi Mi Ri Yu
Ku Su Tsu Nu Fu Mu Ru Yo
Ke Se Te Ne He Me Re Wa
Ko So To No Ho Mo Ro Wo
Yukio does it a lot, too.
She has the same name as me!
Oh, stop it, Daddy. It's so true.
She has her mother's last name, but she's honestly and truly my daughter! Don't we look exactly alike!?
We're both so lovely!!
Guess what, Daddy. Kinta-san and Ginta-san confessed their love to Yukio.
Tee hee hee
Oh no!?
You really do take after your father! Everyone loves you!
Uh
Um

Heh.
It's a crime to be so beautiful, isn't it, Daddy?
Yes. How wicked your Daddy is, Yukio.
Well? What are you going to do, Yukio?
Yukio loves anyone who loves Yukio. ♡
My sons!!
Eeee

Wha!? What are you saying? Didn't you say that you love Yukio-chan way more than I do!?
Gi! Ginta loves Yukio-chan more than I do!
Yukio is so touched...!
My, brotherly love is such a beautiful thing!
No, your happiness is my happiness, Kinta!
I'm the older brother, so I'm stepping down for your happiness, Ginta!
Love spirit possession
SNOOORE
SNOOORE
SNOOORE
It's a secret
By the way, Sensei, how old are you?
Younger twin...
Older twin.
RARRR
RARRR
Oh, that's a relief.
The End

Chapter 29: Burning Commercial Spirit! Mushroom, Bombaye!!



Good work, everyone.
See you tomorrow.
Hana, want a ride?
Yes, yes ♡

I have some snacks.
Want some?
Yeah.

Augh, I'm hungry.
VRRRROOM

Chocolate Snack
Kinoko no Yama
Chocolate Candy
Now tastes even better!
What is this?
Eh!?

Truffles!?
But I like chocolate truffles.
Never heard of it.
That's un-Japanese!
Izumi-sempai! You've never heard of Kinoko no Yama!?
Well, actually, I prefer Takenoko no Sato.
Of course they are. Japanese chocolate snacks are the best in the world.
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
Ah.
These are good.
Ah!
Hey! Who said you could eat all of them!?
YANK
Hana, want one more.
Buy your own!
Ugh.
There's three left...
.....
Kinoko no Yama
Chocolate Snack

Kinoko... Mushrooms, huh?
KABOOOOM
Come to think of it, I wonder what happened with the Yama-no-Oku Inn*.
*See volume 3
Ah!
STAGGER
I-I'm terribly sorry! Someone suddenly...
Owwwww.
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE
Nnnngh
Are you all right!?

Are you okay, Grandpa?
The bone's broken...
Aaaaaaahh!
What are you going to do about this? A broken bone at his age...
My leg/ My leg.../ Ooohh, the pa-a-ain.
GLARE

Yama-no-Oku inn...!
Y-y-y-you're...!
What ill fate brings us together here?
It's your fault our inn with all its traditions was...!
Hate...!
How is it our fault?
?
It collapsed because it was so run down. You brought it on yourselves.
.....
Right, Hana?
Y...
Yeah.
And, hey, what are you talking about? Broken bone?
You're fine!
Ooohhh, the paaain! My hand! My hand!
You said it was your leg before!
Grandpa!

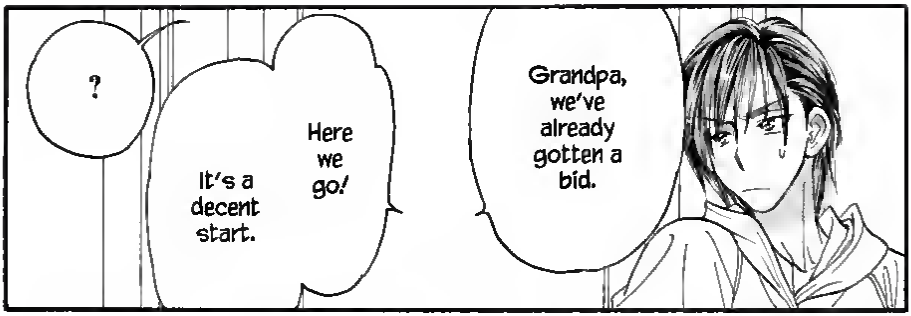
Robbed of everything we had, Grandma and I were thrown out alone into the cold, cruel world.
Because our inn collapsed, we lost our land and the creditors took our pensions away.
Zoom!
Accelerator!
加速装置!
Snatch!
Hello, police? We have an accident faker here.
STING
ズキ
STING
TOUCHED
Grandpa, your elbow's bleeding.
A little
We can't find a new line of work at our age, so we've been forced to make a living faking car accidents.
GLANCE
GLANCE
Sigh.
We could live in this car, Grandpa.
Don't!!
Ho ho
This is a nice car you got here.
We're just gonna patch you up. That's all, okay!?

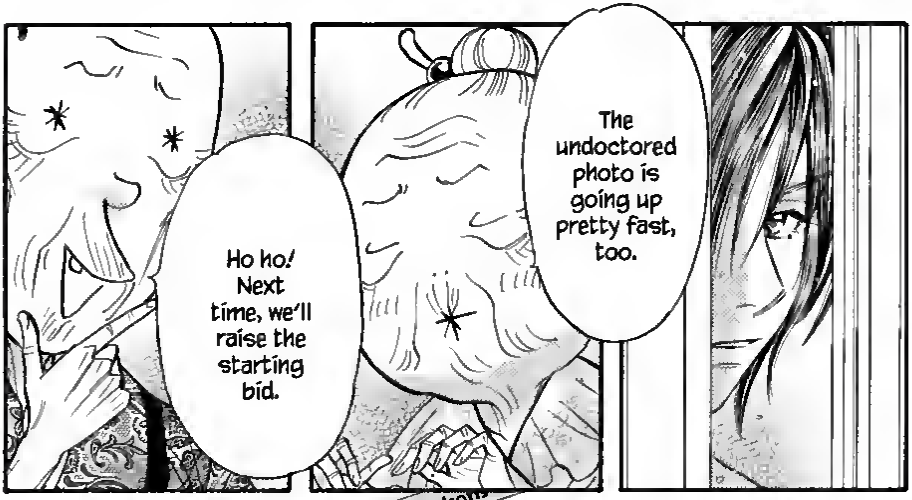
Welcome home.
Welcome home, Izumi-sama.

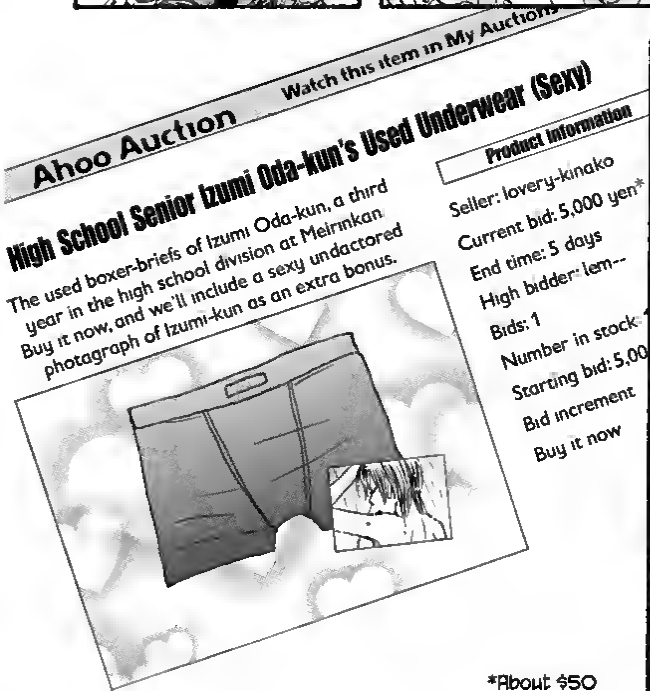
By the way, where are your parents?
You're all patched up. Go home!
Goodness, you're high class, aren't you?
I thought you knew surprisingly little about the world. So this is how it is.
SIIIIGH
They'll be away for a while on business.
?
It's decided. We'll live here for the time being.
Ho ho
I'm sure you have spare rooms.
Hey, the guests are leaving.
What are you doing? Let go! You would throw out a poor old couple with nowhere to go?
You brute!
I-Izumi-sempai! Why not let them stay? Just for a little while!

And it'd leave a bad taste in your mouth if they collapsed and died once they're gone.
W-well, don't you kind of feel sorry for them?
Why do *we* need to look after them!?
Hana! They worked you to the bone, too, you know!
Erk...
Ghosts...
We'll curse you!
If we die, we *will* come back to haunt you!
LEER
Fine! But only until you're healed!

Man, I picked up some trouble.
I really should have just let the police take care of them.
Huh?
The underwear's gone.
That's weird. It was here before I went in to the bath.
?
GLANCE
.....
Whisper whisper
Whisper whisper whisper


Grandpa, we've already gotten a bid.
Here we go!
It's a decent start.
?


The undoctored photo is going up pretty fast, too.
Ho ho! Next time, we'll raise the starting bid.


Ahoo Auction
Watch this item in My Auctions
High School Senior Izumi Oda-kun's Used Underwear (Sexy)
The used boxer-briefs of Izumi Oda-kun, a third year in the high school division at Meirinkan. Buy it now, and we'll include a sexy undoctored photograph of Izumi-kun as an extra bonus.
Product Information
Seller: lovery-kinako
Current bid: 5,000 yen*
End time: 5 days
High bidder: lem--
Bids: 1
Number in stock: 1
Starting bid: 5,000
Bid increment
Buy it now
*About $50

Aaaahhhh!
SNATCH

Tch. He found us out.
What the hell is this!!?
Sigh
If we're going to support ourselves, we'll need some capital.
If you want us out of here quickly, then you'll help us out *this* much at least.
Give me a break! First of all, that's *un*used underwear!
Don't worry, don't worry. I'll make sure to use it first.
Don't make me smell old!!
I'm only 17!!!
Oh, goodness! They suit you, Grandpa!
They'll never know.

Fwip!
Should you really be talking to me like that?
Taking advantage of people's kindness!
Take it off the market and get out of here! Now!
Whoops!
SNATCH
Wha...
What are those? When did you...?
They're pictures from our banquet.
What? Don't you remember?
And such improper behavior!

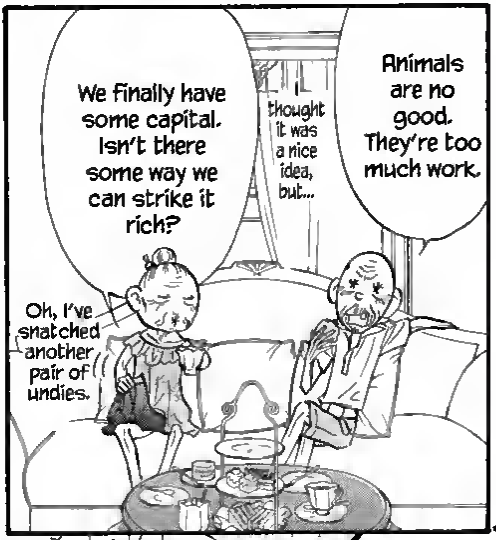
Oh, if these embarrassing pictures found their way onto the Internet... Right, Grandma?
It's so convenient these days. Just one click.
What do you want me to do?
FWOOM
HO HO
B-banquet?
I don't remember anything after we ate Hana's food.
. . . . . .
*About ¥3,000 and ¥2,000
You have a memory card, don't you?
Smirk
First, I think we'll have you buy the underwear that's on auction for 300,000 yen, and the undoctored photos for 200,000.*
Ooohhh. Is this what they call a check?
KYA!
KYA!
SNIFF SNIFF
It smells wonderful, Grandpa.

TWITCH
Izumi-sama!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
CHIRP
CHIRP
Eh?
It's terrible. Your guests are...!
Wh-
What is it?
CRACK!
What are you doing? No lollygagging!

Waaaaaaah!
If you don't jump right through, the fire will go out! Next!
Up on one leg! One leg!
Come on! One more time! Can't you even do this!?
TWITCH
TWITCH
WHIZZ
FRIZZLE
FRIZZLE
Don't put on a show with other people's pets!!
Sigh
You need to discipline these animals!
And here I thought we could put on a show and earn some money.
Tch. No good. They're all useless.
Are you guys okay!?
BRRRRM!
EEK EEK!

Certainly, Izumi-sama!
Don't let them lay a finger on Hanako or anyone else!
Take care of things while I'm gone! I'll come home as soon as school is over!
I'm hungry. Time for food.
It's too early in the morning to be wasting our efforts like this.

Yes, madam.
I want another cup of tea.
These scones are delicious. I want another.
Good work.


Oh, I've snatched another pair of undies.
We finally have some capital. Isn't there some way we can strike it rich?
I thought it was a nice idea, but...
Animals are no good. They're too much work.

Welcome home, Master.

Wow, that's incredible.
And the fad doesn't just stop in Japan. Amazingly, it's spread to such places as France and Thailand!
These maids have become the face of Akihabara.
Moe
Moe
TWITCH
LEER
CLATTER

Huh? Izumi?
Aren't you going to club?
I'm taking time off!
?
Hey, Hana!
You won't believe what I'm going through because you said you felt sorry for them!
Going through?
Did they do something to you?
I knew it...
Izumi-sempai.

ぎくっ
GULP
B-banquet?
Hana, do you remember the banquet at the Yama-no-Oku Inn...?
Izumi-sempai?
Ungh...
Eh? But!
I can't handle them alone!!
Never mind! Anyway, you're coming with me and taking care of things!
Moe ♡
Moe

Mo
Moe ♡
Come on! Moe!
You're not loud enough! Again!
Moe...

Ah! Izumi-sama!
I told to put more heart into it!
Welcome home, Ojou-sama.

A maid café!?
Are you all okay!?
Wh-what's going on here?
Izumi-sama aaaaaa!!
WAAAAAAAAHH!
Those fakes you can find anywhere don't even compare to them.
Ho ho
Whatever anyone says, they're *the real thing*.
SOB SOB
Why you! What are you making my precious servants do!?
There's no doubt genuine, bona fide *maids* and *butlers* will make us a fortune!
Classic Style
You will be welcomed by real maids and butlers
Maid & Butler Café
Open Soon
Second Floor
Maid Café, Homemade Café
First Floor
Butler Café, Buckingham
Forums
Photos
About Us
Map
News
The compact house in the corner of your yard is perfect, so we're renovating it.

You can't do whatever you want on somebody else's property!
First of all, that place is incredibly run down! We haven't used it in years!
Don't worry, don't worry.
It has the perfect atmosphere for a nice, antique feel.
Shut up! What do you mean, perfect atmospher—
Izumi-sama!
Izumi-sama!
Memory card
Banquet.
Everyone, please give them your cooperation.
Izumi-samaaaa!?
Well, that's all for me.
SPIN
You there.

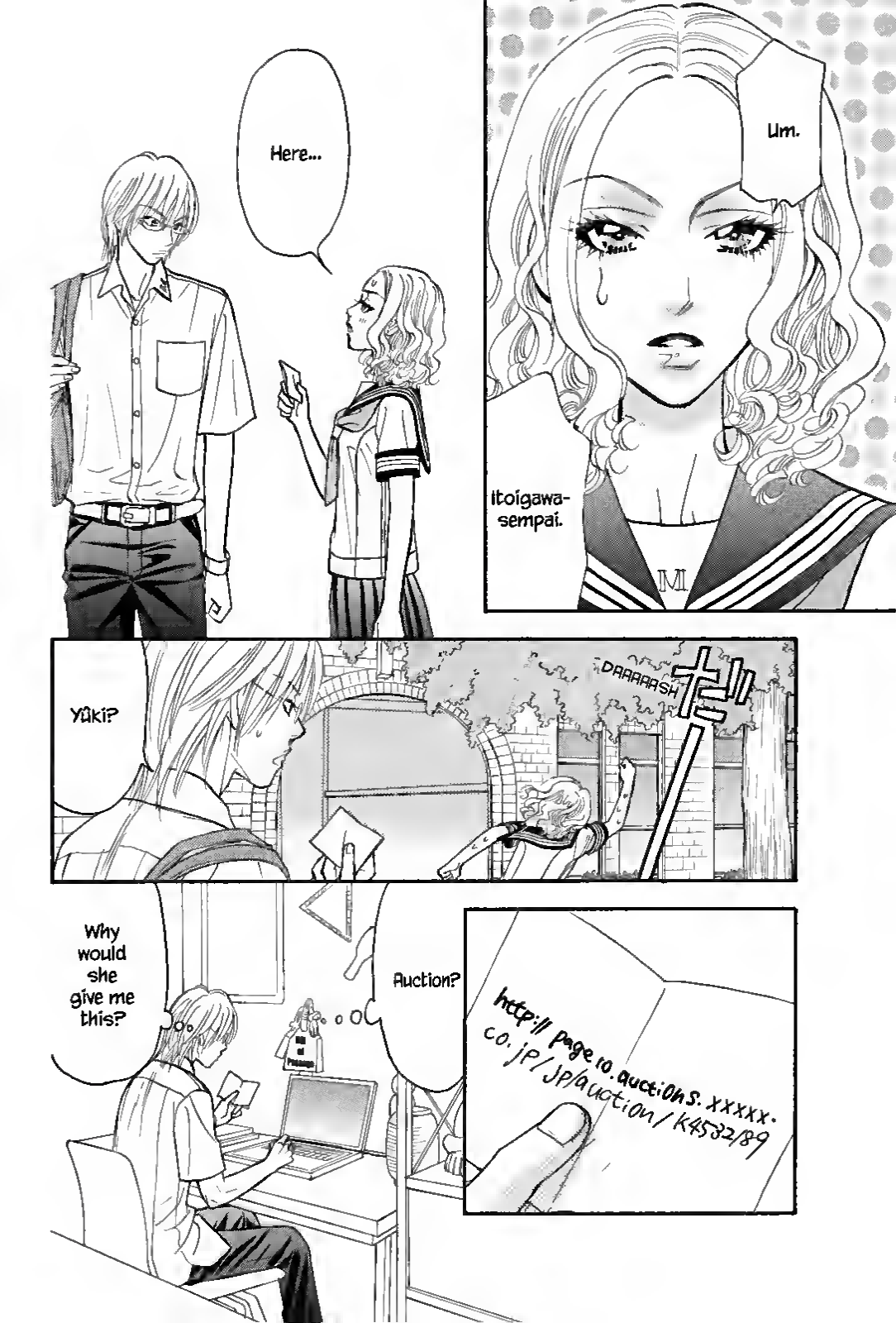
FLINCH
WHISPER
You fed them crotchtent mushrooms, didn't you?
What will he think if he finds out that this happened?
Eep!
I thought he was acting awfully strange at the banquet.
And he doesn't seem to remember it.
Wh-
What are you talking about?
Sigh...
If you don't want him to find out that it was your fault...
Fine. I just have to be a maid or whatever, right!?
No, you don't have to be a maid.
GRR
You'll be the errand girl.
STARE
STARE
STARE

You stay here.
Then I'll go with you...
I'm going to go help with renovations!
EEEEEEEK
Okay, next we're going to practice *Moe-moe* Homemade Rock-Paper-Scissors!
Eeeeeehhh!?
Home
Made
Moe-moe Rock, Paper!
Scissors!
SOB SOB
Ho ho
Tell me when I've poured enough, please.
Would you like some milk in your tea, *Ojou-sama*?
Would you like some milk in your tea, *Ojou-sama*?
Do it like this! This!
The angle of your kitty pose is weak!
DIIIIING
DOOOONG

DEAD
...

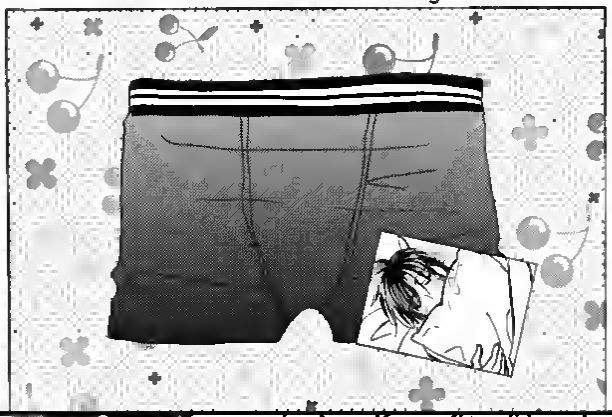
What on earth is the matter, Izumi?
You, too, Suzuki. Did something happen?
Nothing...

Hey, you're not coming to club today, either?
Sorry. Do what you can without me.
Pardon me...
STAGGER
.....


Here...
Um.
Itoigawa-sempai.
Yûki?
DAAAAASH
Why would she give me this?
Auction?
http://page10.auctions.xxxxx.co.jp/jp/auction/k4532189

High School Senior Izumi Oda-kun's Used Underwear (Sexy)

The used boxer-briefs of Izumi Oda-kun, a third year in the high school division at Meirinkan. As a bonus, we'll include a sexy undoctored photograph, taken just for this auction. We look forward to your bids.



Product Information

Seller: lovery-kinoko2007

Current Price: 512,500 yen* *About $5,125

End time: 2 days

High bidder: kaorin24

Bids: 120

Number in stock: 1

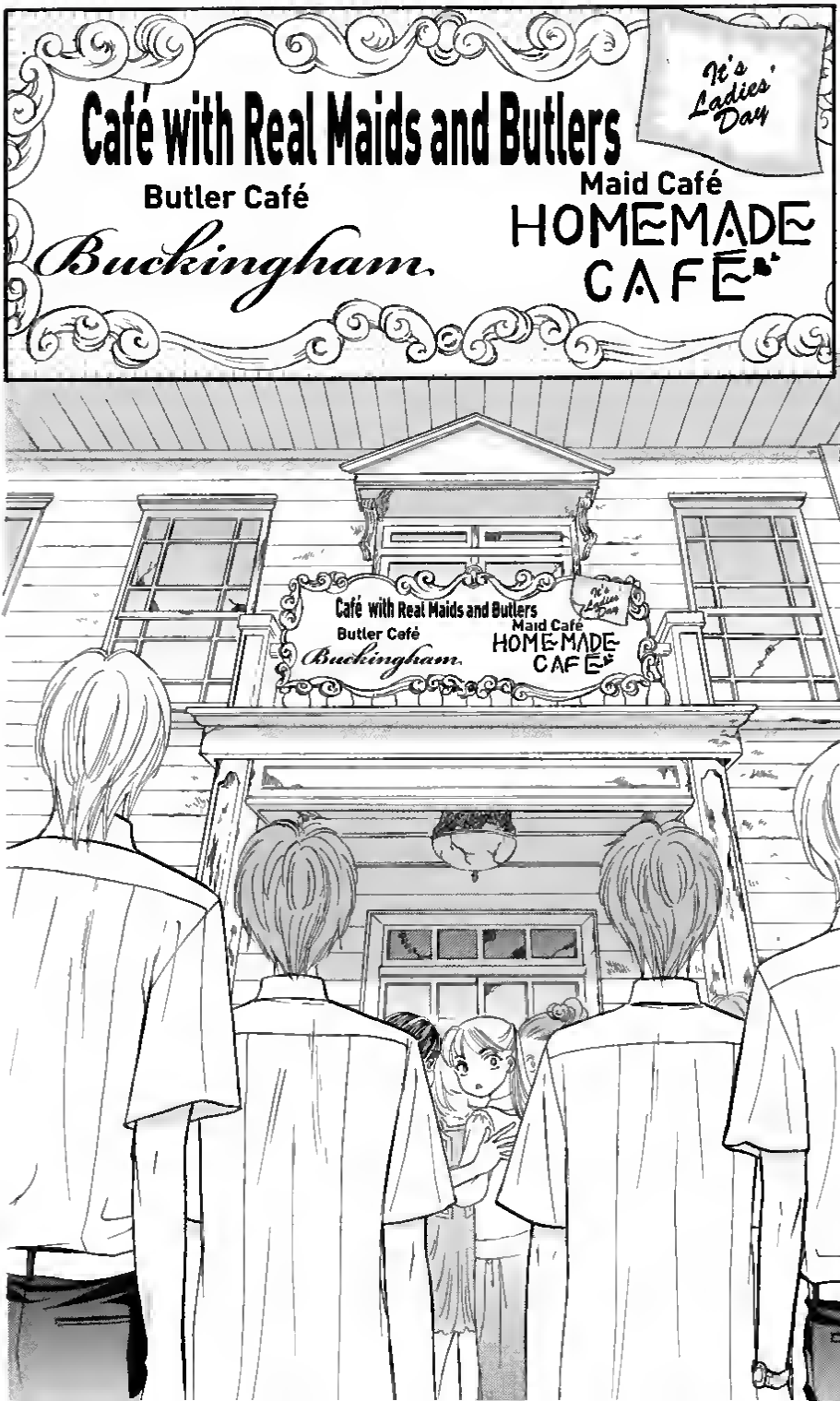
Starting bid: 5,000 yen

Bid increment: 100 yen

Buy it now, 600,000 yen* *About $6,000

Complete
CLICK
Bid
CLICK
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
Hmmm?
I-it's not what you think! There's a very good reason for this!
CLATTER
Itoigawa-sempai...!?

He's definitely hiding something.
He hasn't been coming to club, and he has been acting weird for a while now.
Why on earth would something like that be on the market?
And that photo was taken in Izumi's room, wasn't it?
But man, that was a shock. I thought Itoigawa-sempai really was into that stuff.
What do you mean "really was"!?
We're almost at Izumi's house.
Huh? The gate's open.
What are all those people doing here?

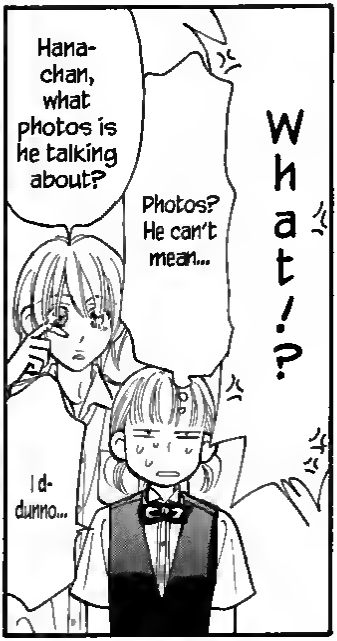

Café with Real Maids and Butlers
It's Ladies' Day
Butler Café
Buckingham
Maid Café
HOMEMADE CAFÉ

Izumi-sama...
Scissors!
Rock, paper
MOE-MOE MAID
ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS
It brings tears...!
What dirt do they have on him...?
Kyaaa Kyaaa
Home-
made

Waaaaaaaaugh!
What are you doing? Do your job!
KAPOW
I-Izumi!
Why are you dressed like that...!?
Kyaaaaa!
What? What? What are you doing here!?
Help...!
I-I'm dying...!

Being forced to do this is much more embarrassing anyway!
So you finally noticed.
You're such an idiot.
Sigh
I can't take it anymore! I quit!
If you're going to spread the photos, then just do it!
That's...
Izumi!
Izumi-samaaa!

Hey, did you hear? All of the Meirin hockey club is here!
Really!?
To the second floor!
Ho ho ho. Delicious. Easy money.
Next we'll have them go out on dates with customers.

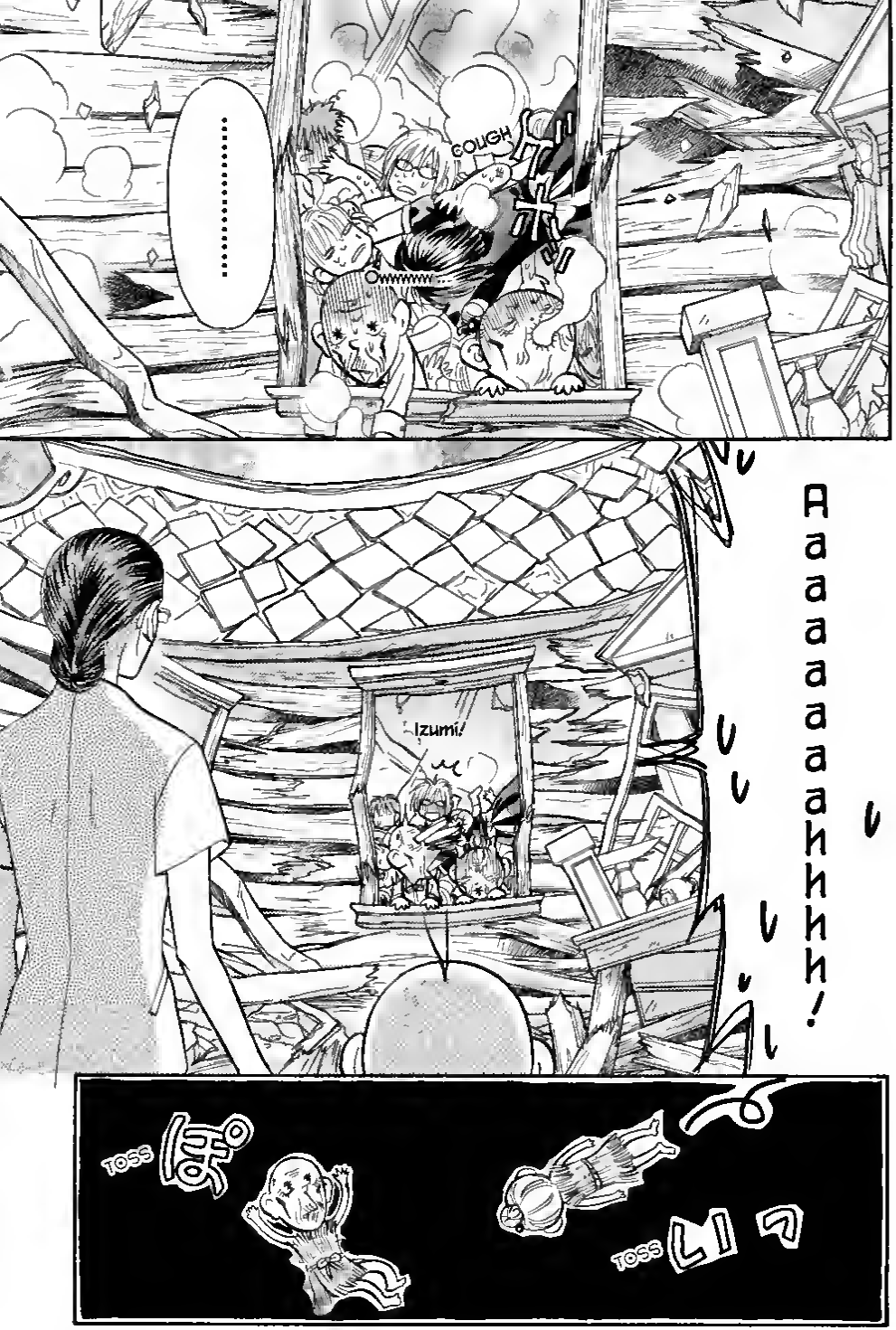


*About ten dollars

Kyaaaaaaaaaa!
Ah!
Just a minute, ladies! If you all go up there at once...
THUNDER
THUNDER
THUNDER
THUNDER
There he is! Natsuki-kun!
キャ
Kyaaa
Kyaaa
Kyaaaaa!
Ooooh, Oda-kun's so cuuuute.
TWITCH
Izumi-sempai, you're crushing me!
Owowowow!
J-just calm down everyone.
Itoigawa-kuuun
Ayuhara brothers, look over here!
We're over the weight limit...

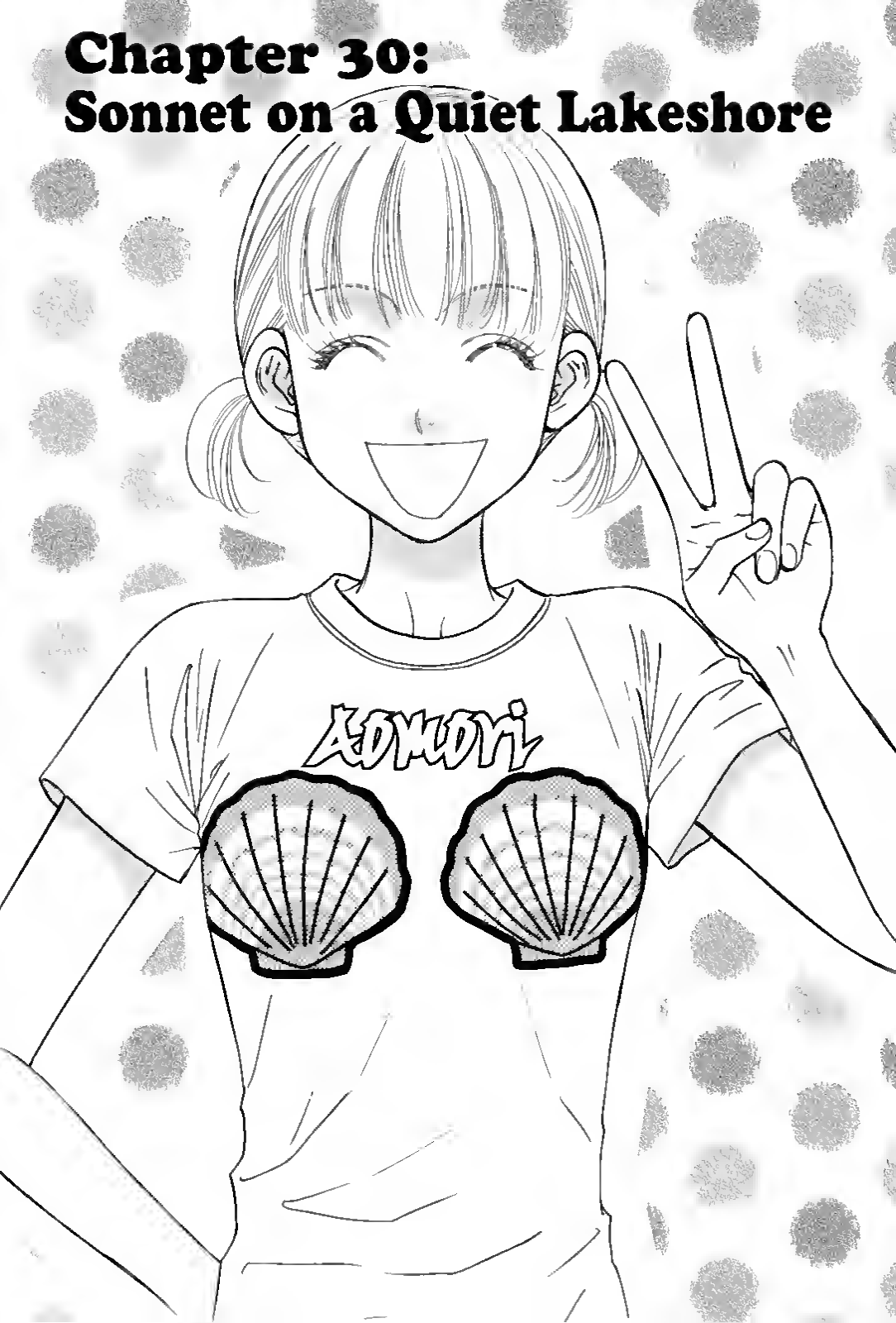
CREAK
CREAK
Umm, are you listening?
With you all acting so wild...
...Hey, Hana.
Eh?
I feel like it has...
Has something like this happened before?
Umm
CREAK
Sorry...
DOKI

ドカーン
CRRRAAAAASH
HOMEMY CAFE


.....
COUGH
Owwwww...
Aaaaaaaahhhh!
Izumi!
TOSS
TOSS

Izumi-sempai, you're not doing the maid cafe anyway?
It's kind of become a legend after just once.
A cafe with real maids and butlers.
I never want to do it again. I want to forget all about it!
I wonder how those two are doing.
Maybe they opened another Homemade Café somewhere.
Eeeehh? That's impossible.
There aren't that many real maids in the world.
FAN
FAN
Hmmm, really?
FLING
Salt
The End

Chapter 30:
Sonnet on a Quiet Lakeshore



I'm hoooooot.
LOVELY
RAN RAN

I'd like to go somewhere cool for our summer training camp.
WHAP
WHAP
Eeeeh? We're having another training camp?
The seniors in the other clubs have already retired.

It was quite a find.
Leave it to me. There was a nice place at Towada Lake, and we just bought it to use as a summer home.
Heh heh heh.
It must be nice to get good grades!
We are an escalator school, after all.
On the border between Aomori and Akita prefectures.
Where's Towada Lake again?
Towada Lake, huh? Sounds nice.
Eeeeeeeeek!
BARRRRM!
If you go to Aomori, you just have to go to Mt. Osore!!
Aomori Three Biggest Winter Festivals

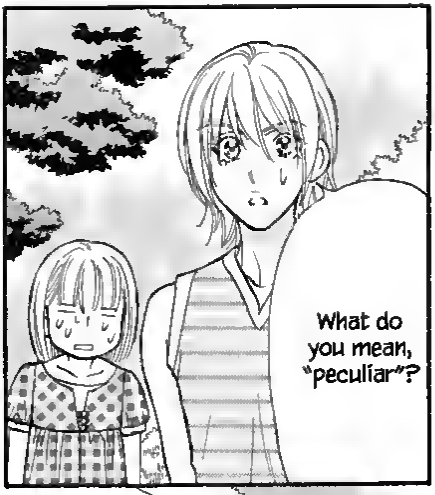
I'm *not* going!!
I have to have an *itako* do a *kuchiyose!*
Ha ha ha. If you look at a map, you'll see that Towada Lake is directly below Mt. Osore.
I've always wanted to go. It's one of the three most haunted places in Japan!
And they say spirits like the waterside.
DRRRRRN
Apples, apples
Apple pie
Aomori, huh? Scallops, scallops
O-o-o-on second thought, how about Hokkaido...
Aomori Three

Wooow. It really does feel nice being by the water.
Let's take a pleasure cruise later.
Yaaaay ♡
Older Brother

Wow. That looks like a manor with a respectable heritage.
It's a noble's mansion, built at the end of the Meiji Era.
So that's north. Osorezan...
Y-yeah...
It's a good thing Mar-tan went straight to Osorezan.
TWITCH
TWITCH
D-d-d-d-dammit, Natsuki!
Ah ha ha. Kidding, kidding ♡
Huh? There's a woman in a kimono at the second floor window...
Eh...?
DRAAAAIN
Huh?
What's this? Someone really did buy this place?
You have a taste for the peculiar.

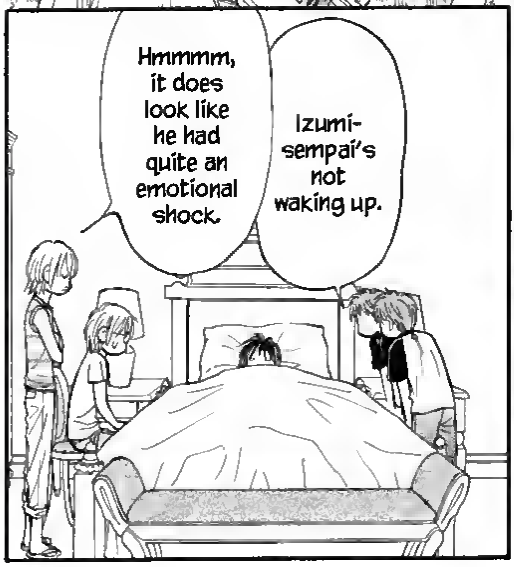
Eeeeeeeeeek! Yôkai!!
Great-grandmother! Going out like that again!
I was only going next door. It won't bother anyone.
This look conserves energy.
So she's the neighbor
Giant breasts.
I-Izumi! Hang in there!
ビタン
WHACK
Who are you calling a yôkai?
How rude.

If you don't notice it, I'm sure it won't bother you.


What do you mean, "peculiar"?

Hey, guys! Help me out!
He's heavy!

We have a bed ready for him, so take him this way, please.
フォッ、フォッ
Ho, ho.


Hmmmm, it does look like he had quite an emotional shock.
Izumi-sempai's not waking up.

Hana-chan.
Butter sautée ♡ I wonder what sembei soup is!
Scallops, scallops
Aomori Three Biggest Winter
Isn't it better for him to stay asleep? It's nice and peaceful that way.
SNAP
Hana...
.....
What was that sound?
Dunno.
Older Brother
Hana-san.
I've missed you...

OPEN ぽ
OPEN ちっ
Ah! He's awake.
Izumi!
Izumi?
Are you hurt anywhere?
Are you okay?

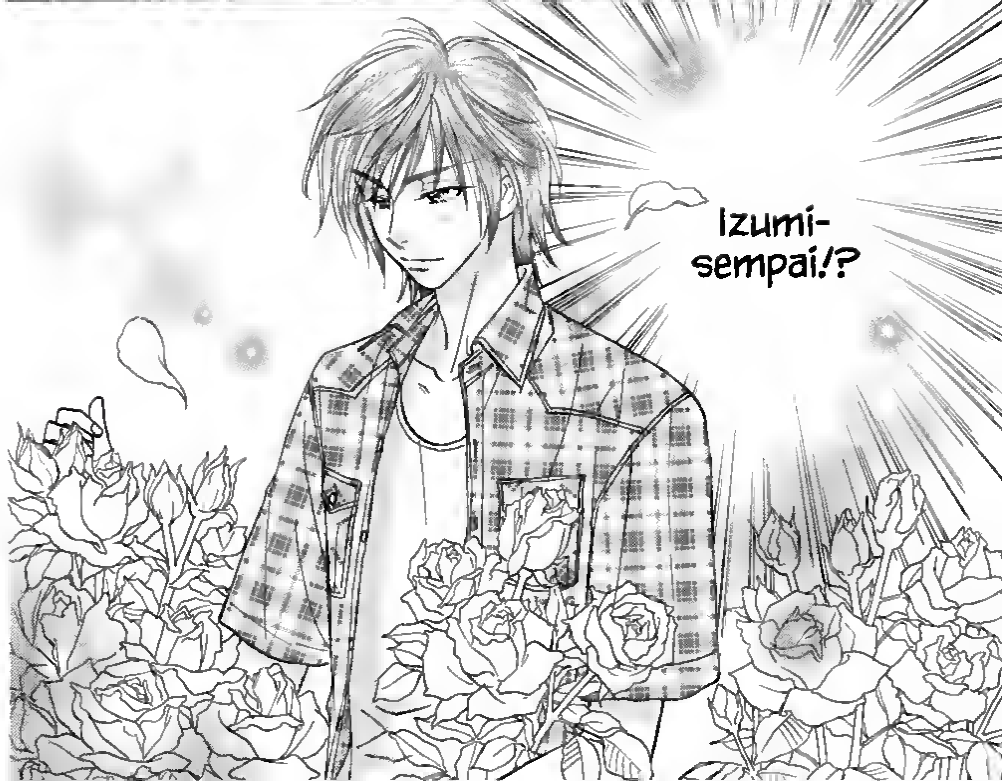
AOMORI
Aomori
Three
Biggest
Wi
Festi
What's the matter, Izumi?

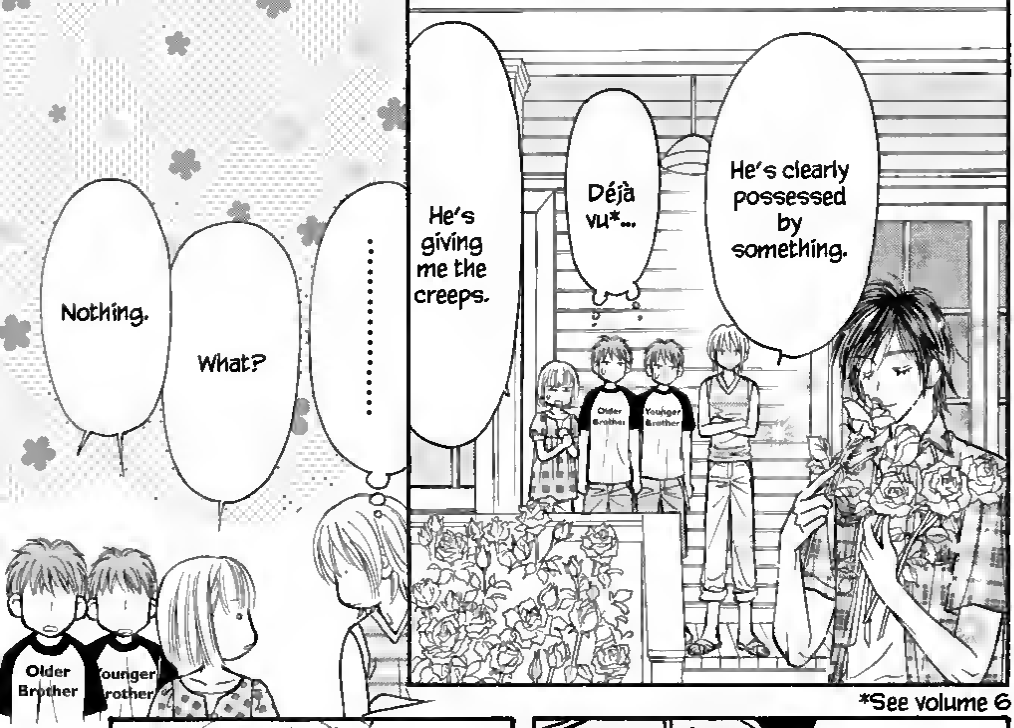
Hana-san.
...I've missed you.
Older Brother
Younger Brother
Although any flower pales next to you.

I'm sure there's a pressure point somewhere.
No, I thought he'd get better if I hit him...
What are you doing!?
With the corner!!
Goosebumps
WHACK
THUMP
Uh, um.
What was that!?
Damn analog!
He's not a broken appliance! Don't put him on your level!
So please don't be angry with Hana-san.
I'm all right.

?
MURMUR
Please...?
Older Brother
Younger Brother

.....
Bleeeeeh
Please refrain from violence.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
Hang in there, Izumi!


Izumi-sempai!?


He's clearly possessed by something.
Déjà vu*...
He's giving me the creeps.
.....
What?
Nothing.
Older Brother
Younger Brother

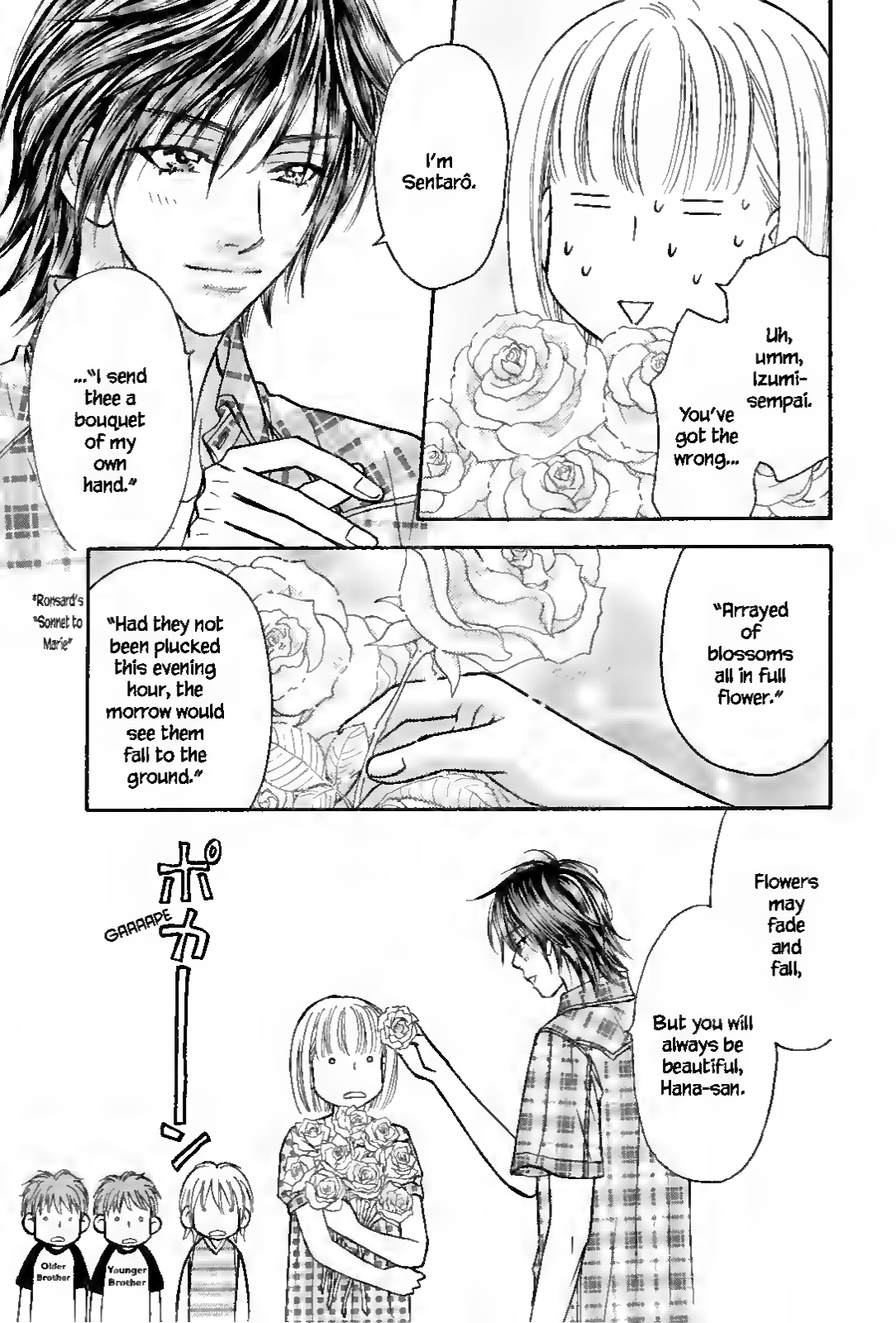
*See volume 6

Is this what that old lady was talking about?
A young nobleman, huh? That explains the good manners.

We heard from the old gardener that this place is haunted
by the spirit of a nobleman who died young at the beginning of the Showa Era.

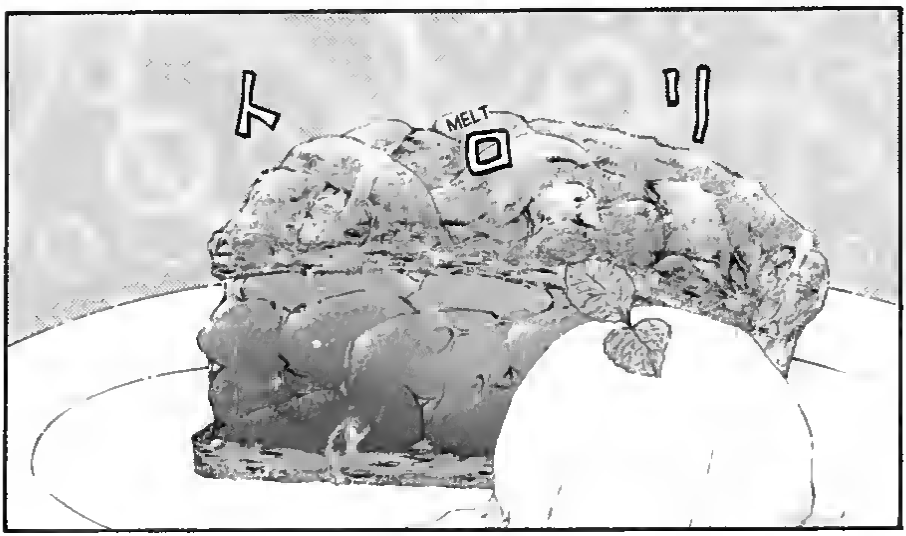
Hana-chan, do you think he's mistaken you for his lover or something?
Eeehh?
Popularity with ghosts...

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
Please, stop it. Just remembering gives me chills...
I think he's more likely to go on to heaven if Hana-chan talks to him than if we use a charm.
Oh yeah, where's Itoigawa-sempai?
He went to buy some exorcism charms.
Here, for you.
Roses really do suit you best, Hana-san.
CHILL
Hana-san!


I'm Sentarô.
Uh, umm, Izumi-sempai.
You've got the wrong...
...“I send thee a bouquet of my own hand.”
*Ronsard's "Sonnet to Marie"
“Had they not been plucked this evening hour, the morrow would see them fall to the ground.”
“Arrayed of blossoms all in full flower.”
GAAAAPE
Flowers may fade and fall,
But you will always be beautiful, Hana-san.
Older Brother
Younger Brother

I'll take all of them!
Meanwhile, Itogawa is—
This is great. Roll camera!
Itoigawa-sempai!
Hurry back!!!
OUTBREAK

Gasp!
Look, it's snack time.
Hana-chan! Hang in there!
Tea is served, everyone.


MELT

Did you have it often?
That's pretty Western for your era.
Apple pie, hm? This brings back memories.
It's home-made apple pie, made with locally grown apples.
Ooooohhh! It looks sooo good. ♡
Fresh pie!
It was Hana-san's only specialty.
Hana-san would bake apple pie,
Of all the servants who came here, she was the best at making apple pie.
Let's eat!
And make my favorite Darjeeling tea.

Love between a young nobleman and his servant, huh?
Right, Hana-san?
That's kinda romantic.
Not listening
MUNCH
Hmm.
Younger Brother
Ah!
Delicious ♡

We always looked forward to our time eating apple pie together in this salon.

You may eat mine, too.
Hana-san.
TWITCH
Wh-what is it?
Yes, please.
Eh!?
A-are you sure!?
I want to see more of it.
You make such a lovely face when you're enjoying food.

Hana-san.
His poetry is really sappy,
but this ghost is a nice guy...
I'm sorry I puked.
Me, me, me.
Flat-chest.
Because usually he's so him.
It's weird to see Izumi-sempai being so cooperative.
BLUSH
?
I think I might like this.
STARE
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
Eh?
The weather is beautiful. Would you like to take a walk by the lake when you've finished eating?
He doesn't seem like a bad ghost, so he'll pass on once he's satisfied, right?
He must have some lingering feelings for this Hana-san, after all.
Go with him, Hana-chan.
B-but...
He is a ghost...
lder
other

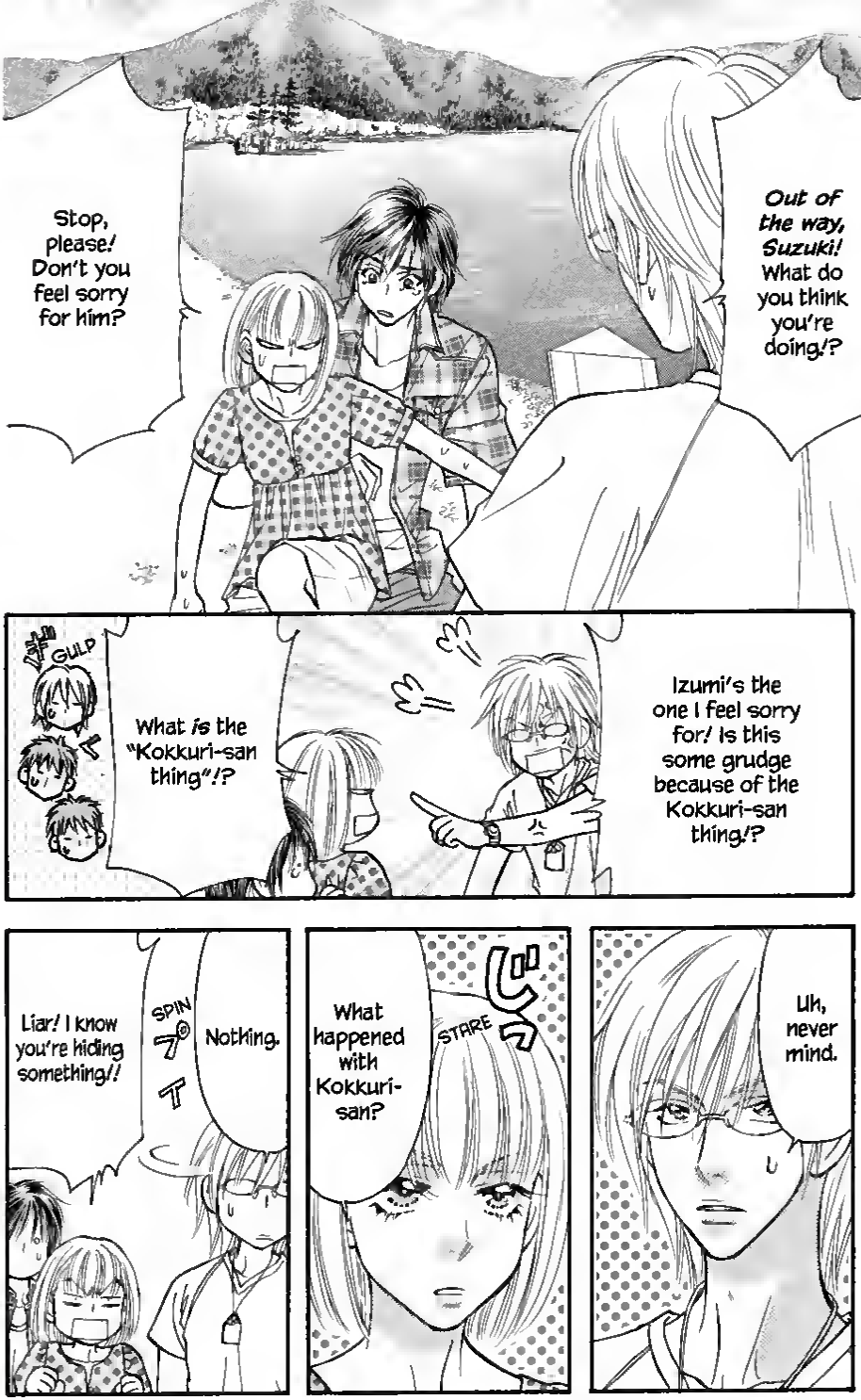
It's fun to have Izumi like this,
But we can't leave him this way forever.
That's true...
Doesn't it feel wonderful?
I haven't walked around outside in a long time.
They said he died at a young age
so I guess he was sickly and couldn't go outside.

I wonder what he was like...
Me
Me, me
A delicate, weak young noble, huh?
The exact opposite of Izumi-sempai.
Except for the rich part.
Ah!
TRIP
Mm-hm
I bet he was a frail handsome youth.
I'm fine, I'm fine.
No! If I look at his face...
Are you all right, Hana-san!?

Ah ha ha ha.
CHILL
Really?
It would be terrible if your beautiful legs were hurt, Hana-san.
Thank goodness.
Say, Hana-san.
May I keep holding your hand...?
Eh?

I brought some effective charms and amulets.
Are you okay, Izumi? I'm sorry I'm late.
I-Itoigawa-sempai...!?
Be Purified! Be cleansed! Rokkon Shôjô!!
Just you wait! I'm going to help you!
Itoigawa-sempai, wait!
I thought it might be Mar-tan.
That scared me...

Get out of Izumi's body, evil spirit!
Hana-san...!
Ito—
Itoigawa-sempai, you can't...!!


Stop, please! Don't you feel sorry for him?
Out of the way, Suzuki! What do you think you're doing!?
GULP
What is the "Kokkuri-san thing"!?
Izumi's the one I feel sorry for! Is this some grudge because of the Kokkuri-san thing!?
Liar! I know you're hiding something!!
SPIN
Nothing.
What happened with Kokkuri-san?
STARE
Uh, never mind.

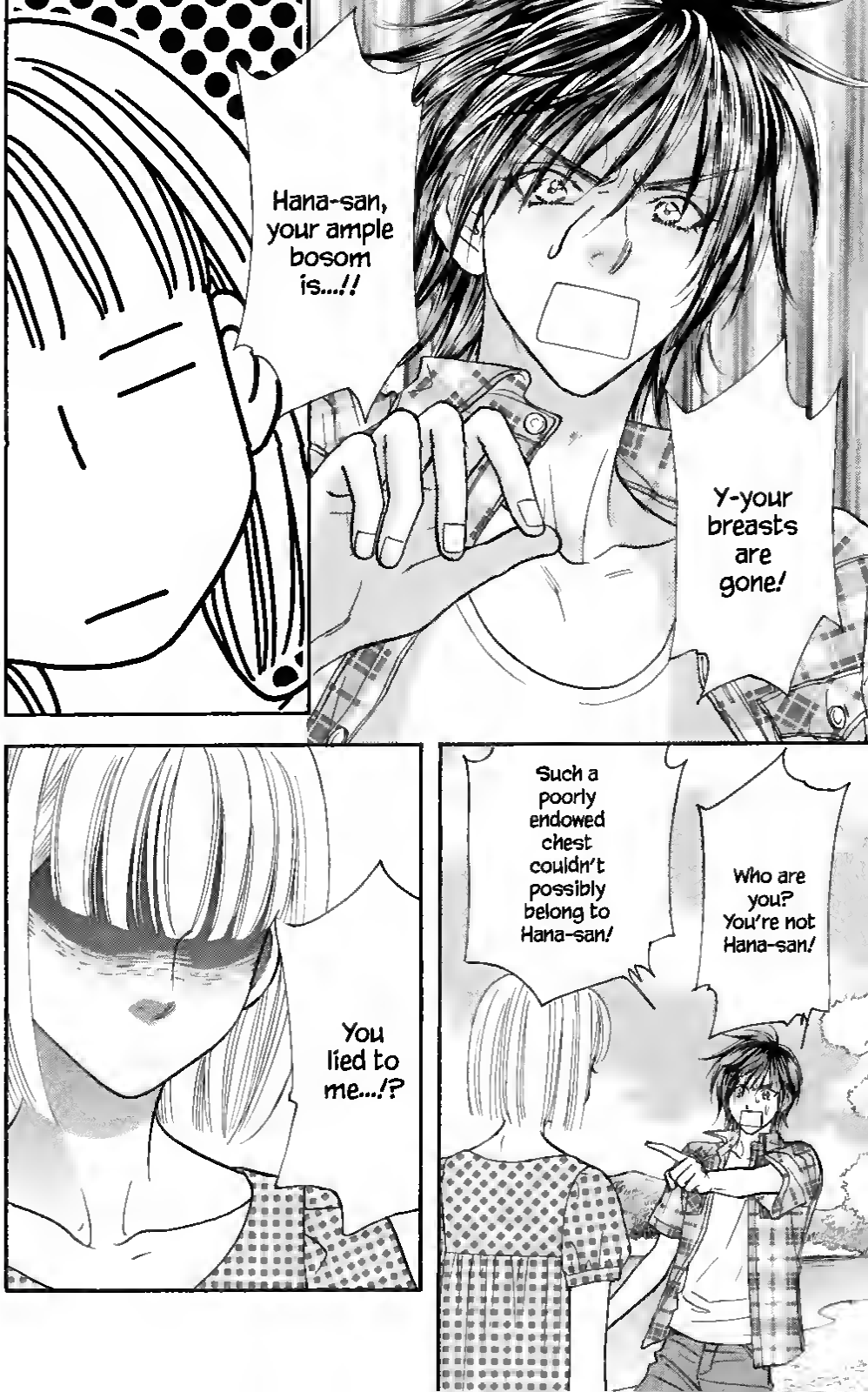
I'm telling you I'm not hiding anything!
Look me in the eye and say that!
STAMP
STAMP
Stop, Itoigawa-sempai. People are watching.
Guys!?
Hey, I haven't exorcised him yet.
Hana-chan, we'll be going on back.
Ah! Wait, I'm not through talking to him...!
And hey, when did you all—!?
STARE
STARE
Older brother
.....
Are you okay?
Y-yes. I was only a little startled, is all.
Thank you, Hana-san.

You don't have to feel bad about that. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses.
But how shameful of me. I'm a man. I shouldn't be letting you protect me, Hana-san.
...Thank you.
You really are so kind, Hana-san.
Oh no.
He's like *really* cute.
TWARRING

...Hana-san.
I guess it's like your appearance really does mirror your heart.
He's such a jerk on the inside that I completely forgot.
But come to think of it, Izumi-sempai is pretty good-looking.

I think I might like having Izumi-sempai like this...
Nn?

Izumi-sempai...?
Huh?
?
Gone.
Gone.
Gone!


Hana-san, your ample bosom is...!!
Y-your breasts are gone!
You lied to me...!?
Such a poorly endowed chest couldn't possibly belong to Hana-san!
Who are you? You're not Hana-san!

for being poorly endowed!!!
Excuse me

THUD
Suzuki...!?
Waaaaaaaahhh!
Izumi!
And never come back!!
POUR
POUR
I-Izumi! Are you alive!?
Ah.
Oh, so he finally passed on.

Eh...?
Younger brother
Older brother
Has it been 80 years?
Sentarô was far too persistent.
Eeeeeeeeeeeeeh!?
Hana-san, one of these days, you're bound to be arrested.
Your breasts are as huge as ever.
Great-grandmother, going out like that again!?
When I was a bouncy young girl, I came to this mansion as a servant.
He wasn't even in the running, but Sentarô wouldn't give up.

No kidding.
Huge breasts...
Who are you calling handsome?
Izumi!
CLAAANG CLAAANG
He mistook me for her...?
Why would a delicate, fragile, handsome young man be so...
This is Sentarô.
Eeeeeeeeeeeeeh!!?

Weren't there any other choices...?
He died young, didn't he?
He... He was sick. I couldn't help it.
Even more so because he shut himself inside reading books all the time and didn't have any friends.
Sentarô was a huge geek.
CLRRRRNG
CLRRRRNG
Older Brother
Younger Brother
Well, I did keep him company during tea time.
Older Brother
Younger Brother
Trying to eat the whole thing at once. He was only in his 20th year.
He dropped dead when he choked on some apple pie on his birthday.
Sick?
By the way, I'm the one next to him on the right. ♡

Eeee

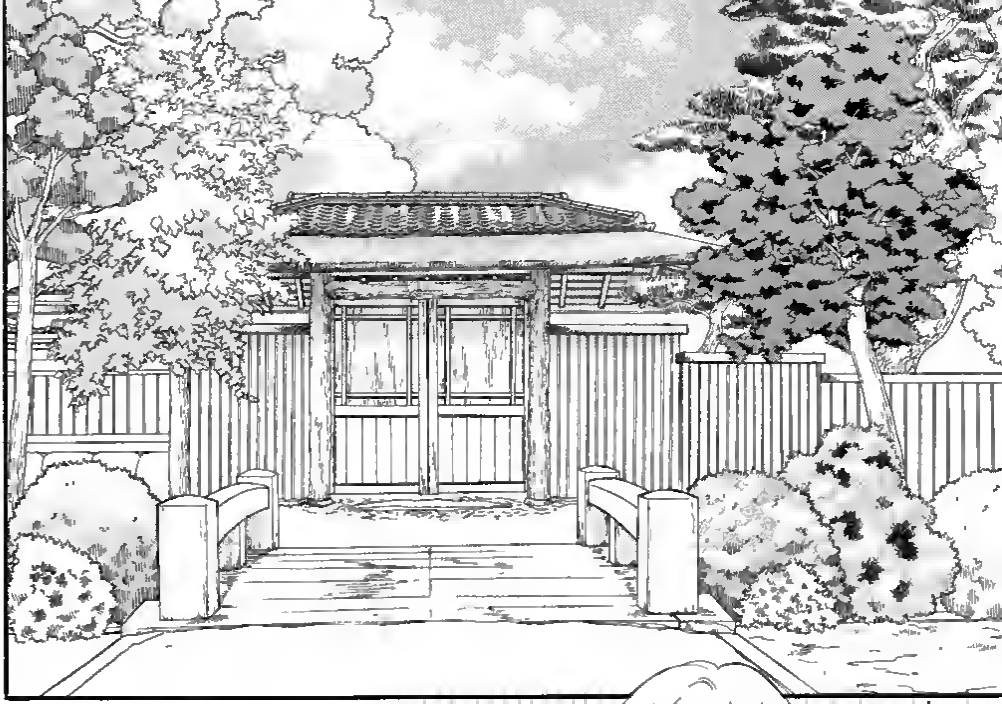
Chapter 31: A Real Live Prince!? Operation: Love Love Japan!

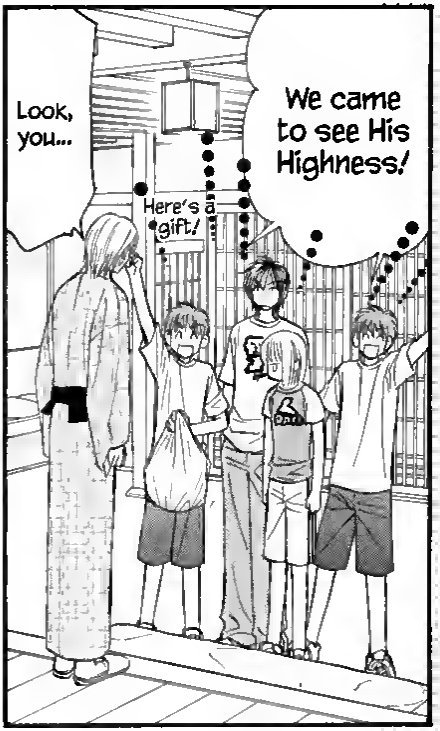
BREEZE
BREEZE
Mm
Mmmmmmmm
♡

Hana-chan, if you don't slow down, you'll make yourself sick.
This is the first time I've ever had Densuke watermelon! Izumi-sempai's family gets the best Bon Festival gifts!!
oooohhh, I'm in heaven. ♡
The AC's on, the watermelon's delicious,
MUNCH MUNCH
He said he'll be back the day after tomorrow.
Natsuki-sempai is in Kyoto for a memorial service, right?
If Natsuki-sempai and Itoigawa-sempai were here, they could have had some. I feel kind of bad for them.
But it's sooooo good. ♡
Oh, but then there'd be less for me!
Ah!
Wait a minute! Don't eat it like that, Izumi-sempai! You're wasting it!
What about Itoigawa-sempai?

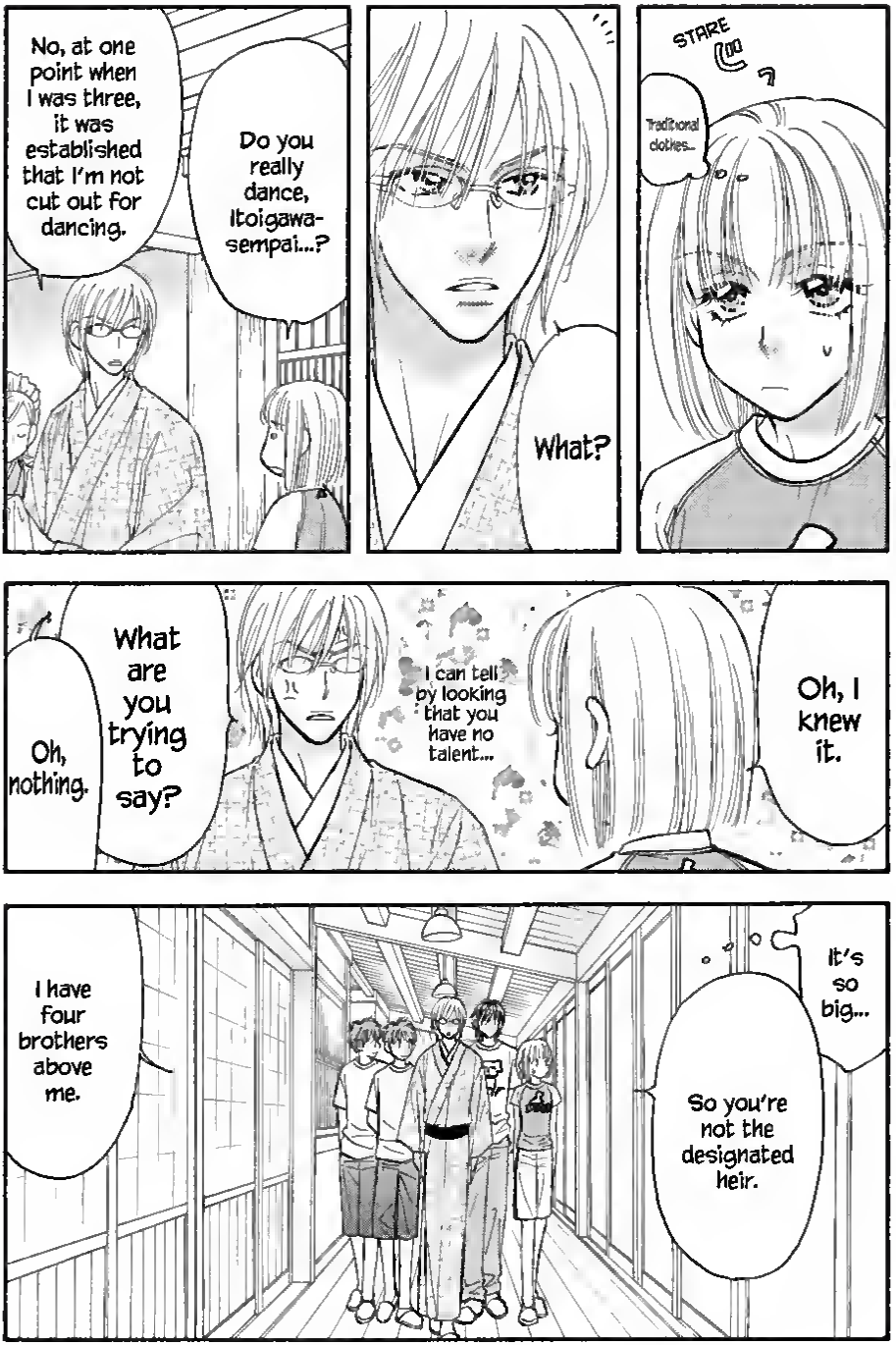
Wha?
Shut up.
Apparently he was given charge of some prince from somewhere and told to look after him.
Apparently their parents know each other.
No, the real thing.
From a small country in Europe.
Something about a handkerchief or a handy-man...
Prince? You mean that guy everybody's into...?
They're the successors of the founder of the Hanakage school of Japanese dance.
Wh-what does Itoigawa-sempai's family do!?
Eeeeehhh!?

You rarely see real princes these days.
A prince, huh? I'd like to see a real prince!
What? You didn't know that?
Well, I don't care...
Successors... that's that thing they always talk about in those two-hour dramas, right...?
Yeah, I haven't been in a while.
Why don't we go to Itoigawa-sempai's house?
Doesn't it sound like fun!?
Rarely? I don't think I've seen one my whole life.
I wanted to take home anything that was left...!!
Eeeehhhh!!?
Well, there's still watermelon, so we'll bring it as a gift.




Look, you...
We came to see His Highness!
Here's a gift!

What's this all of a sudden?

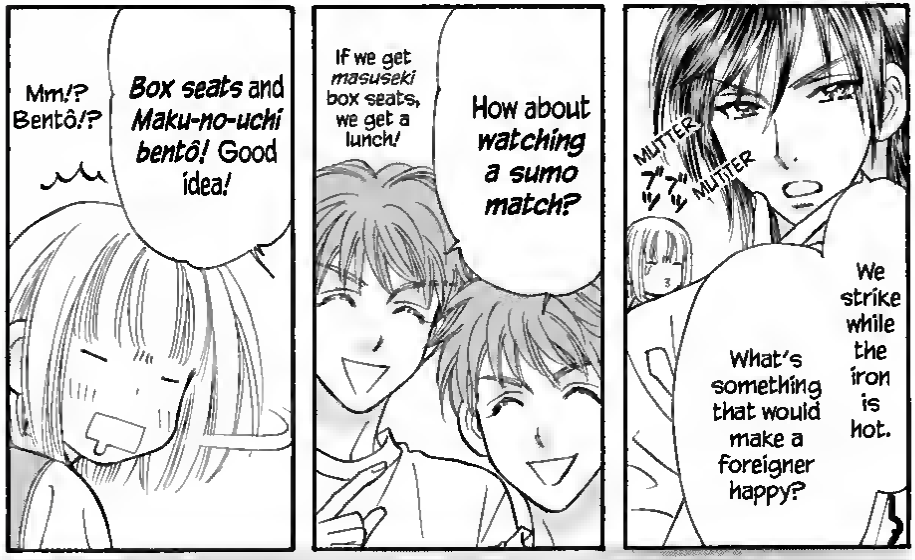

Do you really dance, Itoigawa-sempai...?
No, at one point when I was three, it was established that I'm not cut out for dancing.
What?
STARE
Traditional clothes...
Oh, I knew it.
I can tell by looking that you have no talent...
What are you trying to say?
Oh, nothing.
It's so big...
So you're not the designated heir.
I have four brothers above me.

No, this...
But this is unusual, you being in traditional clothes.
No kidding.
That's even more surprising!!
Eeehh!? You're the youngest, Itoigawa-sempai!?
Wha?
is because my family is having Japan Week.
My parents have known his family since they were invited to a Japan fair in their country.
I was told to do something about His Highness's hatred of Japan.
He hates Japan?

Hmmm. And if the heir hates Japan, that would cause some concern about the future.
They're putting a great deal of effort into attracting Japanese businesses.
The king and queen love Japan and are eager to have a cultural exchange.
Do they know why he hates us?
Yummmmm!
That could affect someone deeply...
It's a small country, so even the king is the same class as a prefectural governor.
Apparently it was caused by his first love, a Japanese girl, telling him ***he's creepy*** and dumping him.
When we serve him tea, he makes his own European tea, and he torments our Japanese cat. They told me to take care of him because I'm closest to his age, but...
Anyway, he says he doesn't want to take his shoes off, and he can't sleep on a futon, and he won't touch any Japanese food, and eats only imported junk food.

It does seem a little unreasonable to ask Itoigawa-sempai to babysit.
What? He's still a kid. That's so cute.
Thirteen.
How old is he?
All right, Takashi. Leave it to me!
We'll teach His Highness how great Japan is!!

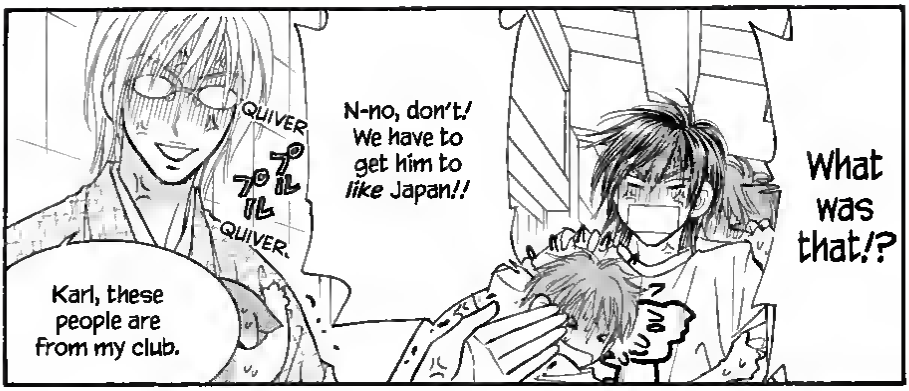
Begin Project: Make His Highness into a Japan-Lover!!
Ah, no, but...
Of course! You're in the hockey club, aren't you!?
Wait just one minute! "We"? You mean me, too!?

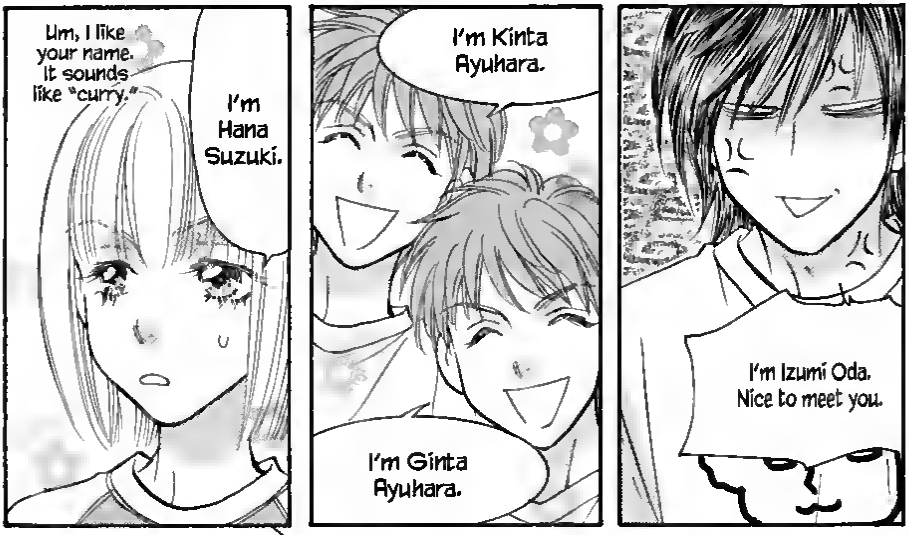

Mm!? Bentô!?
Box seats and Maku-no-uchi bentô! Good idea!
If we get masuseki box seats, we get a lunch!
How about watching a sumo match?
MUTTER
MUTTER
We strike while the iron is hot.
What's something that would make a foreigner happy?

Mmgyaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!

Meow!
Meow!
Inside
What's wrong, Tama...?
!?
JINGLE
Tama!?
Oh.
There it is.
What is this!!?
Inside!?
Give it back.
I'm not done yet. It looks stupid that way.

His Highness!?
LEER
LEER
Don't Japanese people write "meat" on foreheads?
Karl!
Not done!? With what?
He—
Who are these people?
We do not!!
183 cm*
He's huge! Foreigners grow up way too fast!
He's thirteen...?
Would you not come near me?
Japanese people reek of soy sauce.
*About 6 ft


Karl, these people are from my club.
QUIVER
QUIVER
N-no, don't! We have to get him to *like* Japan!!
What was that!?


Um, I like your name. It sounds like "curry."
I'm Hana Suzuki.
I'm Kinta Ayuhara.
I'm Ginta Ayuhara.
I'm Izumi Oda. Nice to meet you.

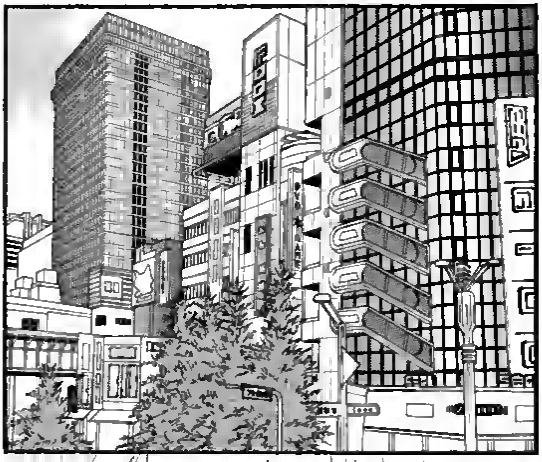
I don't wanna watch fatties throw themselves at each other.
HUFF!
We were just talking,
and since you're here in Japan, we thought you'd like to see a sumo match.

I guess sumo is a little too cultured for a thirteen-year-old.
So *not* cute!
Something Japanese, something Japanese...
I know!
What a growing boy needs is *Food! Food!*
Hmmm, food, huh? Good idea.
Like *shimofuri sukiyaki*, or *shabu-shabu*. *Shabu-shabu!*
If he eats delicious Japanese food, I think he'll stop being prejudiced.
♡
Traditional Japanese meals are good, too, but if you come to Japan, you just have to have Japanese beef!
This is shabu-shabu, made with the highest A5 ranking Matsusaka beef.

It reeks of the ocean.
Peh!
Even if you don't like Japanese food, you should like this.
Eat as much as you like.
HUFF HUFF
Let me have it!
The seaweed?
Maybe it's the smell of the broth?
Eeeeeeehhh!?
I'm going to the convenience store.
What did you come here for!!?
BELCH
I got extra meat!
Princes really are good, refreshing people.

Ninjas! Samurais!
What do foreigners really love about Japan? It's gotta be *this!*
CRACKLE
Childish.

I-I know! Why don't we try *Akiba* next!?
Izumi-sempai! Izumi-sempai!



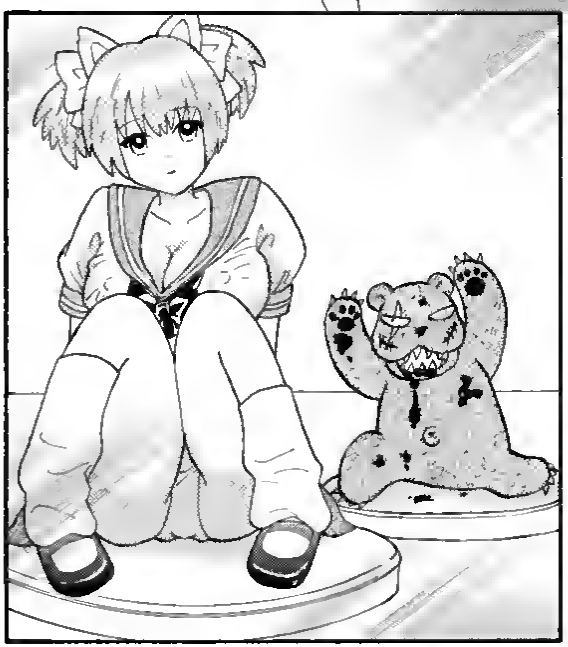
H-hey, let go!
All right, let's go!
Electric Town, Otaku Town...
I have experience working at a maid cafe, so leave it to me!!

ぼす
SUUUUUUK

Akibahara
No!
Your Highness, is there somewhere you'd like to go?
Like a maid cafe?
I have maids at home. I'm not interested!
Right, Izumi-sempai?
Honey toast
Uhhh, but this could be pretty interesting, too.
Shut up!
The Japanese are all perverts.
There's so much noise everywhere. It makes me tired.
I came here because my parents ordered me to, but I want to go home as soon as possible.
Hey, are you listening!?
That maid-guided Akiba tour looks good, too
I wanna eat canned oden.
I don't know...
Me too, me too!
Akihabara best spots
Tokyo Best Akihabara

We have no choice. Let's go.
Y-yeah.
I don't wanna go in a store that looks like that, but...
Ah! Wait...
Hmmm...
I want a Zeon Army cap!
I'm gonna buy a Raoh T-shirt!
Canned oden, canned oden!
GIA
This is...
Ah.

Karl.
I hate you.



Do you want that?
Eh...? N-no.

I-it's not what you think...!
Hmmm, so Your Highness likes bishojô figures.
With a figure like that, you can kind of sense how much feeling the creator put into it.
It's not that!
Bishôjo50
STARE
STARE
Look at those boobs.
I'm telling you it's not like that!
Japanese figures are a part of our culture that we're proud of.
There, there. We're all men here.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
Hey! Leave him alone!
He's at a tender age!
They're works of art.
There's nothing to be embarrassed about.
I told you to stop it.
I hate this! I'm going home!!
Shut up! I hate Japan!!

So Akiba was a failure, too...
It looks like we made his hatred of Japan even worse.
Hmmmm, we have three days until he goes back home.
This is bad. We have to do something. Fast. I don't like this sense of defeat.
Back to the basics. Hana, when you think Japan, you think...?
This calls for drastic measures.
Mt. Fuji and geisha.

I... I'm Hana-yakko...
I'm Natsu-yakko.
I'm sure they're planning something stupid again...
Japanese geisha girls.
If you're gonna be in Japan, you just *have* to do the traditional geisha game, *yakyûken*.
Wh-what is this!?
Isn't it more fun to have a wild card?
He got back just at the right time.
Why is Natsuki one of the geishas?
It's a game where you play rock-paper-scissors, and the loser takes off an item of clothing.
Eehh!?

All right, then. Hana-yakko.
I'll play with Natsu-yakko, please.
Who do you want to play with, Your Highness?
N-no, I.../
GLANCE
DOKIIIIN
If you're going to play baseball
You shake it up like this!
Please go easy on me.

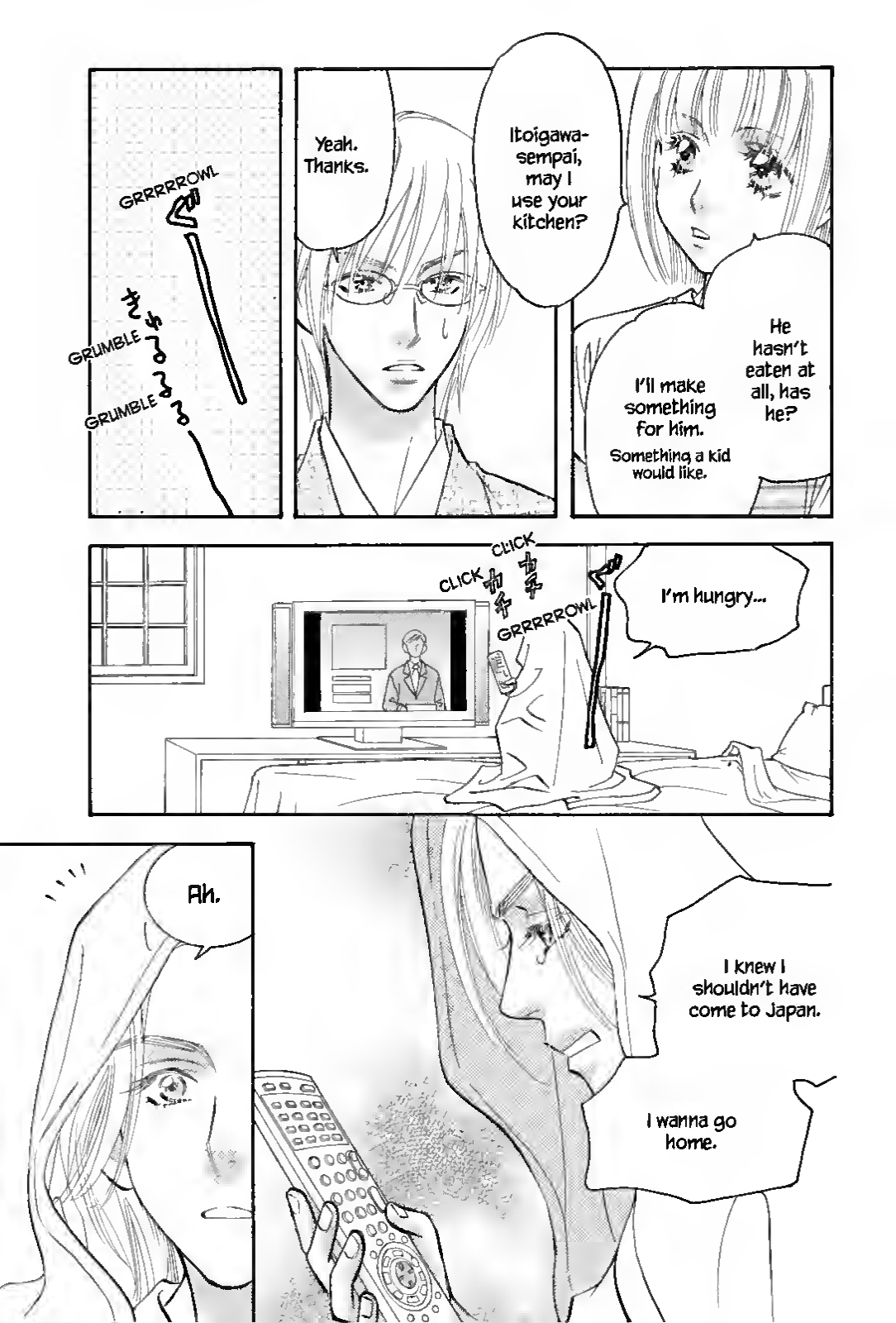
One, two,
Out!
Safe!
Three!
I lost...
キャーっ
Kyaaaaaa!
Hurray! Hurray!
I won...
どぎゅーん!!
DOKKIIIN!
One layer, then.
Wh-
What do I do? She's so pretty...
If you're going to play baseball,
you shake it up like this.
Out!
Safe!

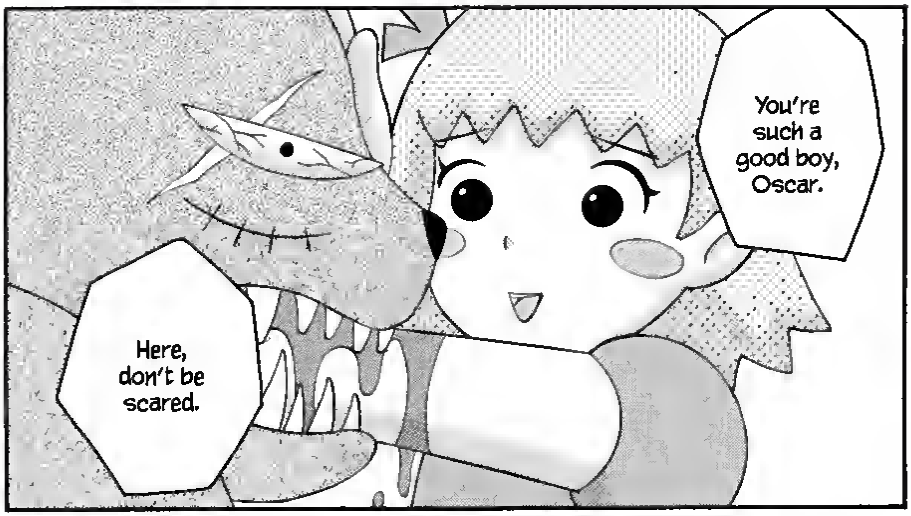
I lost again.
Someone so beautiful is doing something so...
Might be kind of nice...
Japan's traditional culture...
Aaaaah!
Oh no, not again.
What am I to do? I'm down to my underwear?
Take it off!
Take it off!
I did it!!

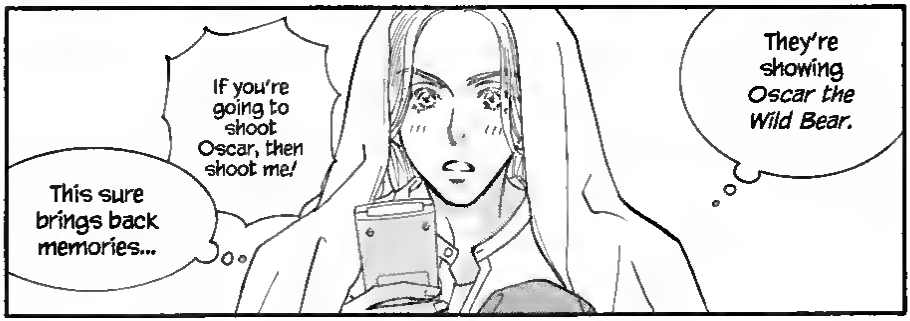
You're good at rock-paper-scissors, Your Highness.
Ah ha ha ha ha
あはは
Too bad!
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.
Did I get your hopes up?
Surprised!?

DARRRRRSH
Ah.
Wait!
SHAKE
SHAKE
Your Highness?
SLAM
I knew it.
I hate Japan...!!!
What? Are you mad?
We're sorry. We just wanted to shock you a little.

Eeeeehh?
The prince is still shut up in his room?
Yeah. And he won't answer when we call him.
I was sure he'd like that. This is weird.
You'd get mad if it happened to you.
Of course I would!
That's fraud!
What are you doing, making him hate Japan even more?
Hmmmm.


GRRRRROWL
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
Yeah. Thanks.
Itoigawa-sempai, may I use your kitchen?
He hasn't eaten at all, has he?
I'll make something for him.
Something a kid would like.
CLICK
CLICK
GRRRRROWL
I'm hungry...
Ah.
I knew I shouldn't have come to Japan.
I wanna go home.

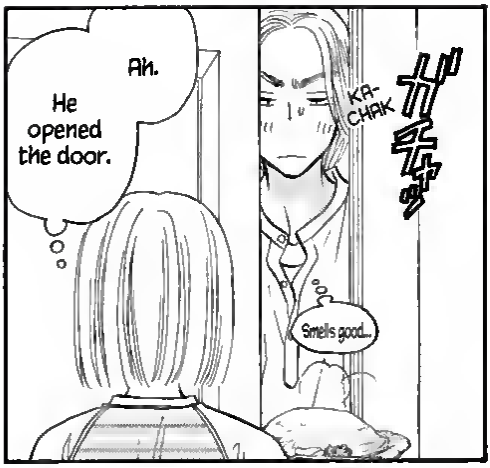

You're such a good boy, Oscar.
Here, don't be scared.


They're showing *Oscar the Wild Bear.*
If you're going to shoot Oscar, then shoot me!
This sure brings back memories...

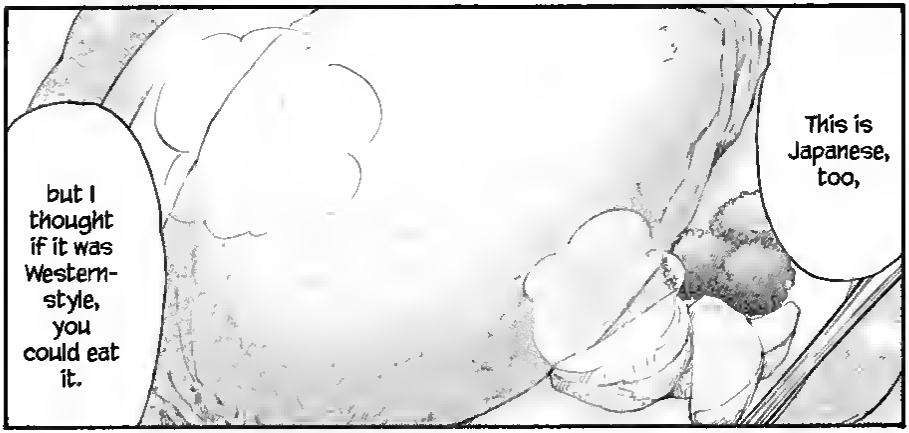
I learned that it was from Japan
and I thought it would be a good thing to talk to my first love Marie about.

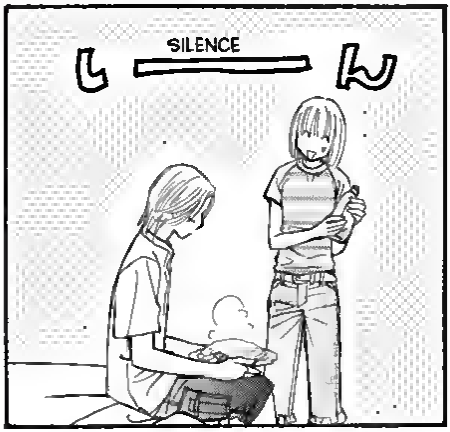
I loved this when I was little. I watched it all the time.

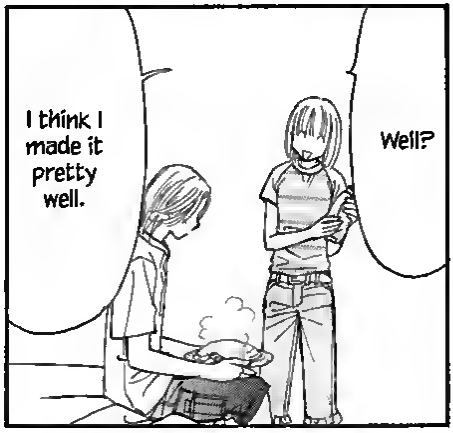
In Japan, they call people like that *otaku*.
You're always just watching anime and drawing pictures, Karl.
For Marié?
CLAAAAAANG
ガーン
Marié hates *otaku*. They're creepy.
PERK
KNOCK
KNOCK
SNIFFLE...
Don't *really* shoot!!
BLAM
I loved it so much.
But I haven't watched it since then.


Ah.
He opened the door.
KA-CHAK
Smells good...

Umm, I brought you something to eat.
You have to eat something.

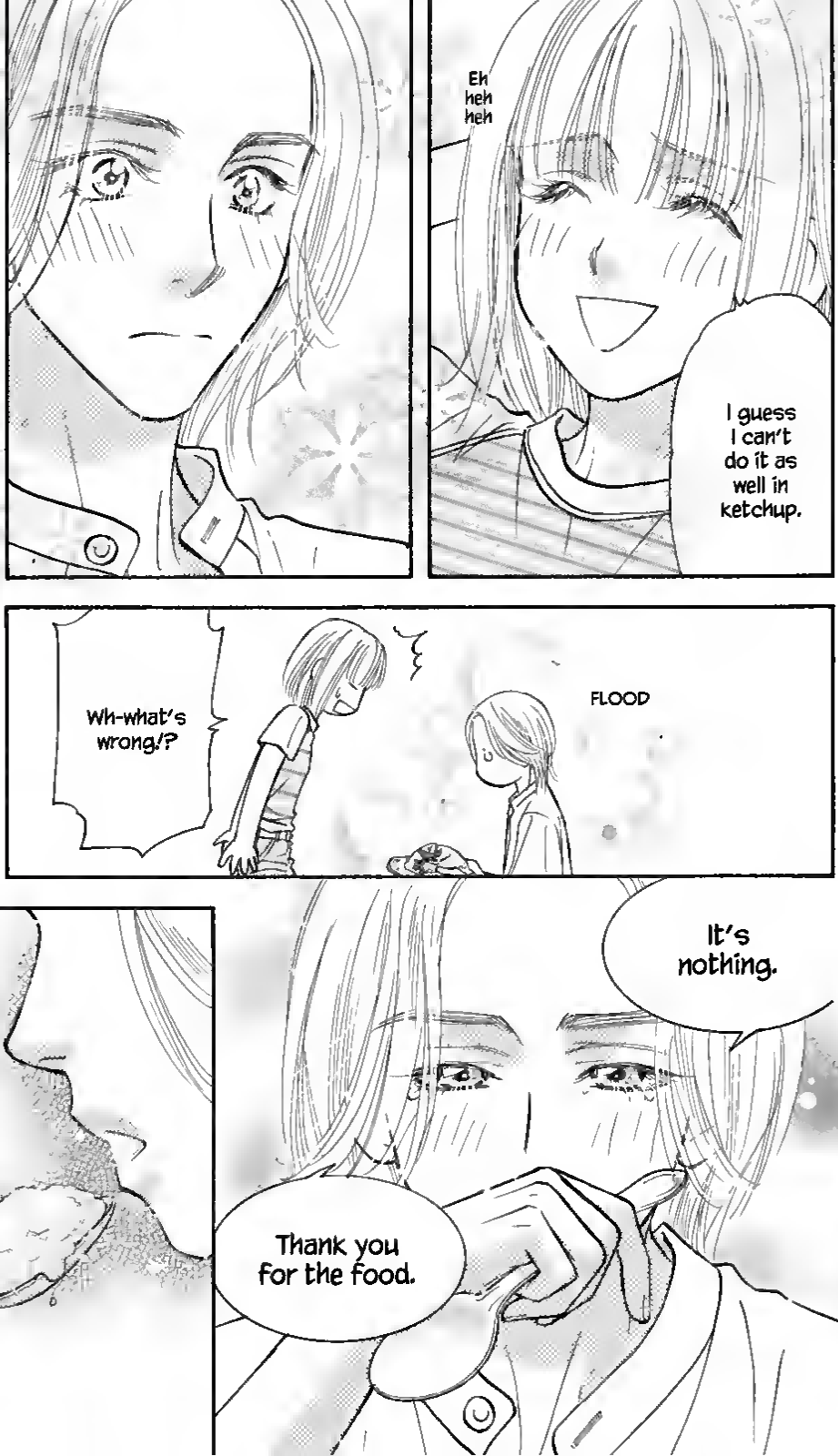

This is Japanese, too,
but I thought if it was Western-style, you could eat it.

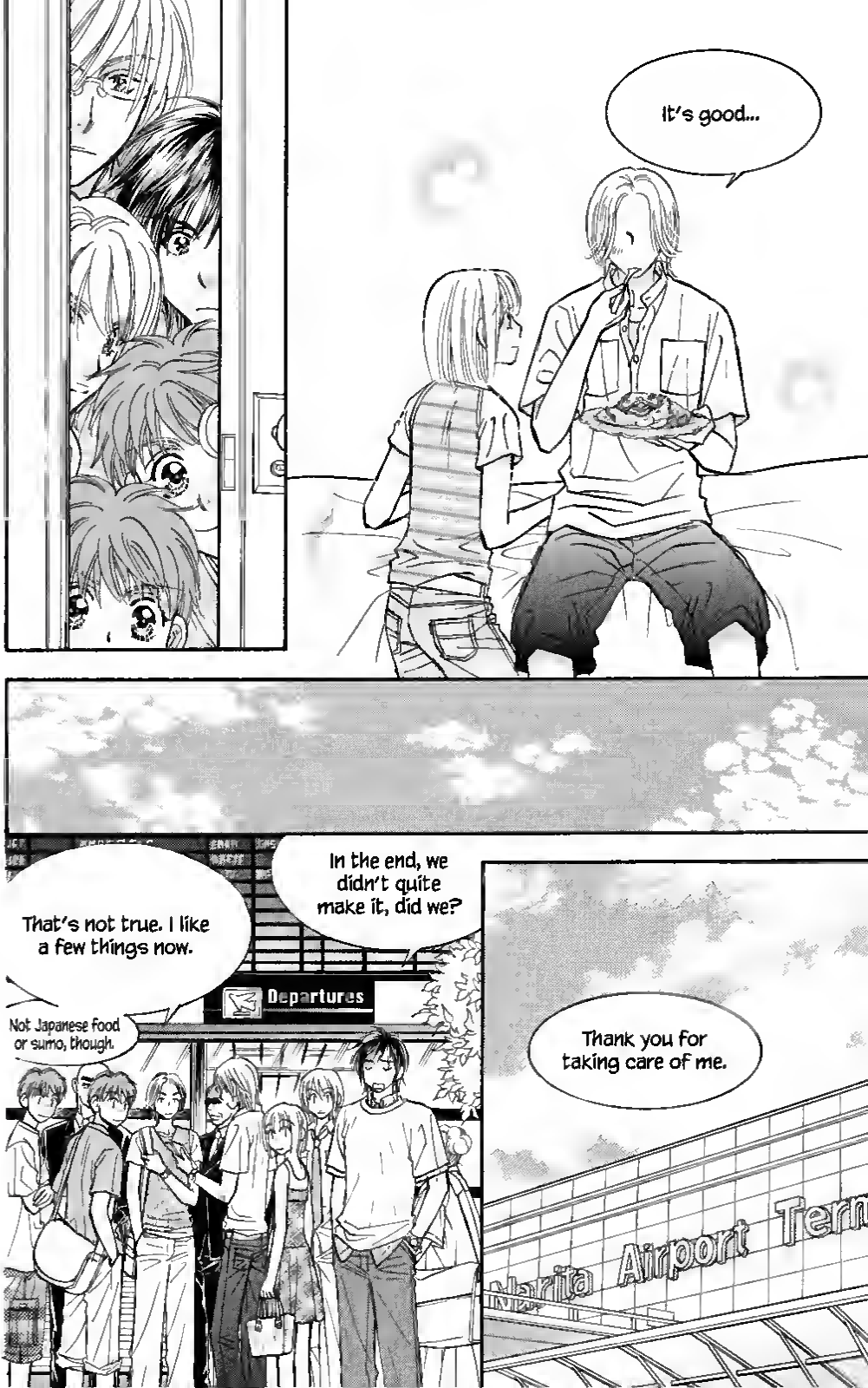

SILENCE

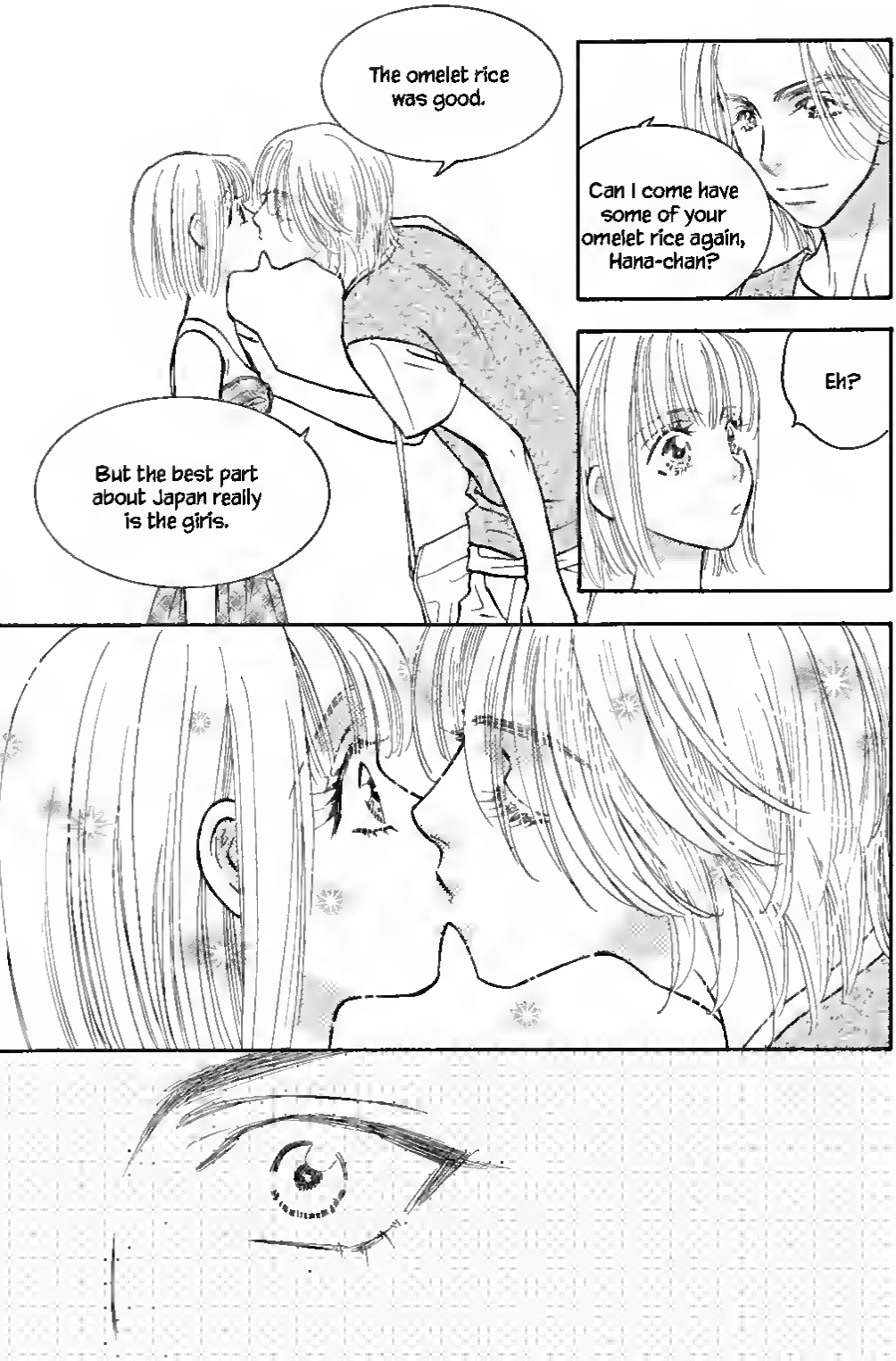

Well?
I think I made it pretty well.

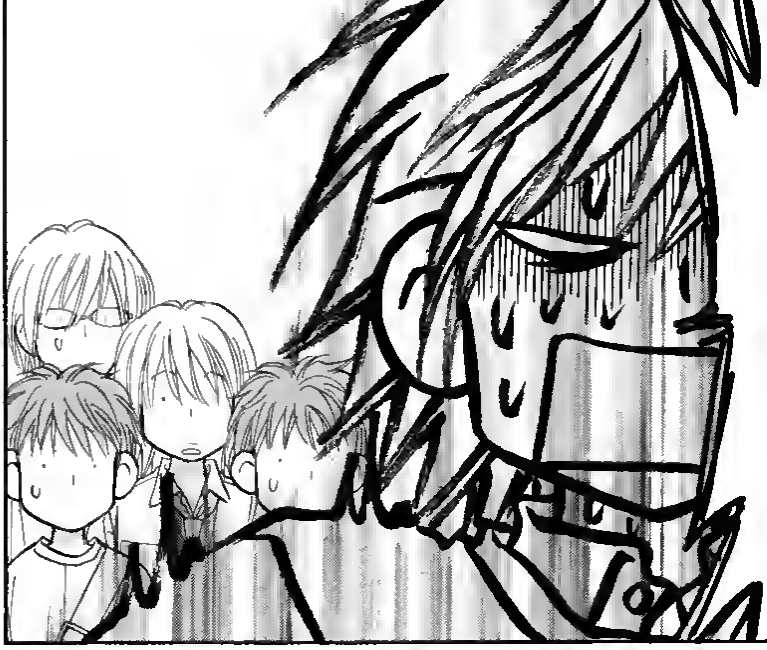
Blub!
This brings back memories!
I loved it when I was little. I watched the reruns over and over.
Grarrrr!
Ah!
They're showing *Oscar the Wild Bear!*
Officially allowed facial scars, chomp chomp, let's go today
Do you know this one, Your Highness?
They show Japanese anime in Europe, too, right?
Oscar, Oscar, Oscar the Bear

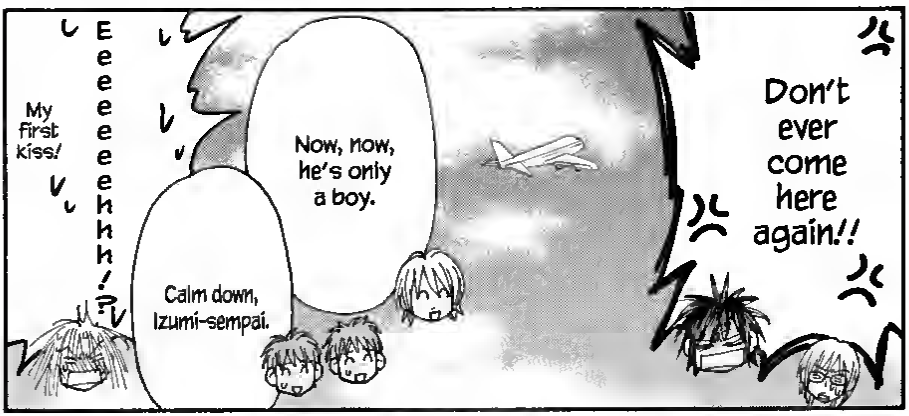
Can I borrow ketchup, Your Highness?
I can draw Oscar from memory.
Even now, I watch it if I find it on.
There you go.


Eh heh heh
I guess I can't do it as well in ketchup.
Wh-what's wrong!?
FLOOD
It's nothing.
Thank you for the food.


It's good...
In the end, we didn't quite make it, did we?
That's not true. I like a few things now.
Not Japanese food or sumo, though.
Departures
Thank you for taking care of me.
Airport


The omelet rice was good.
Can I come have some of your omelet rice again, Hana-chan?
Eh?
But the best part about Japan really is the girls.



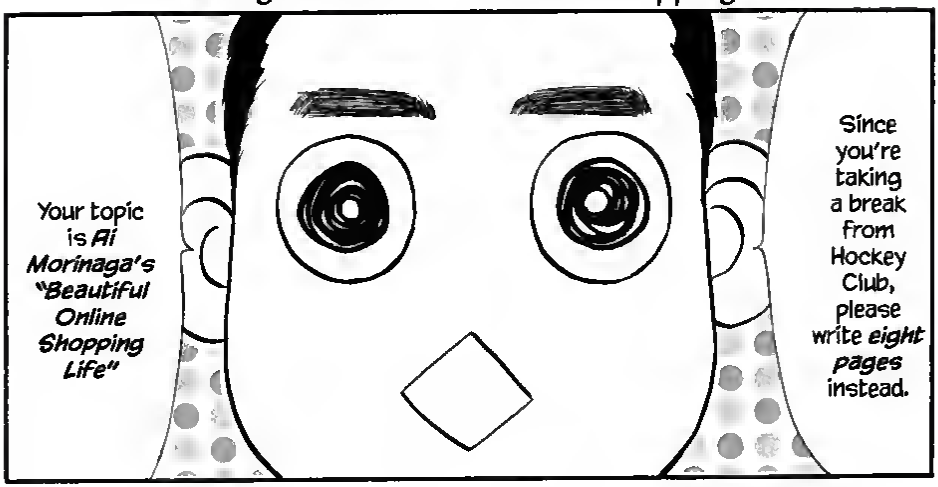


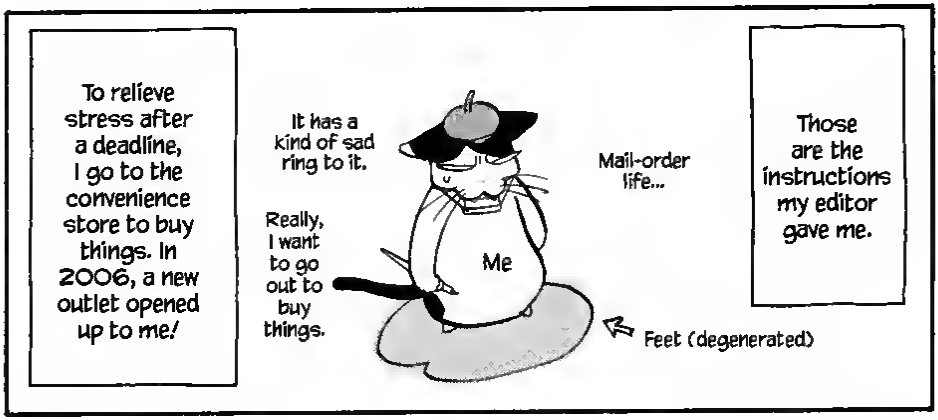
The End

Look forward to Volume 9♪

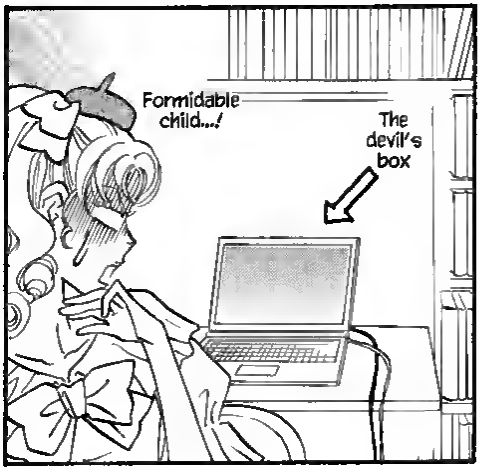
Special Feature

Ai Morinaga's "Beautiful Online Shopping Life"

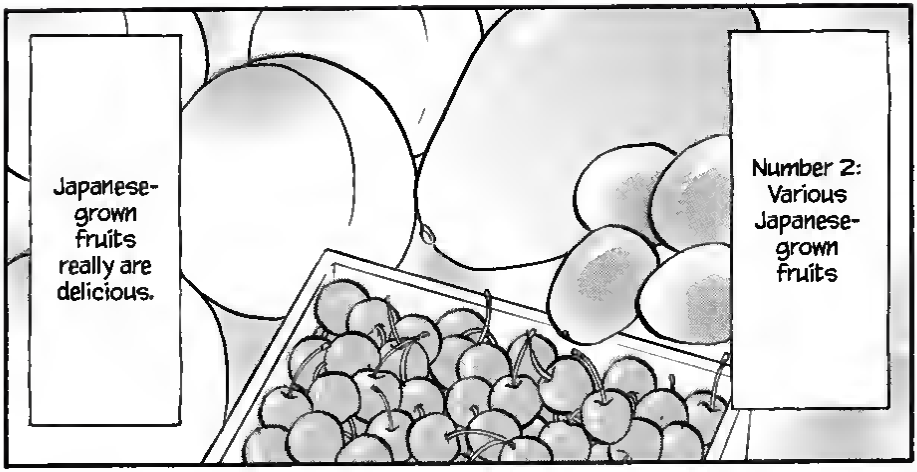

Your topic is *Ai Morinaga's "Beautiful Online Shopping Life"*
Since you're taking a break from Hockey Club, please write *eight pages* instead.


To relieve stress after a deadline, I go to the convenience store to buy things. In 2006, a new outlet opened up to me!
It has a kind of sad ring to it.
Really, I want to go out to buy things.
Me
Mail-order life...
Those are the instructions my editor gave me.
Feet (degenerated)

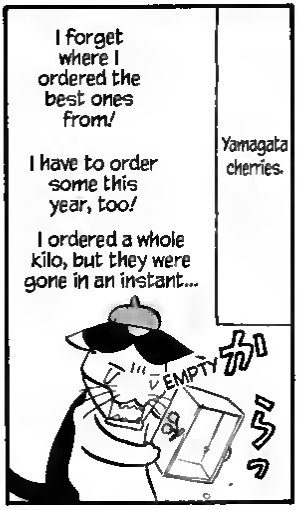
I'd say whenever I found something yummy, and click away.
There are a lot of people here while I'm working. Somebody'll eat it!
But it's research for Hockey Club!
Just a little more and shipping's free!
Click! That looks good!
Ah! This, too!
CLICK
CLICK



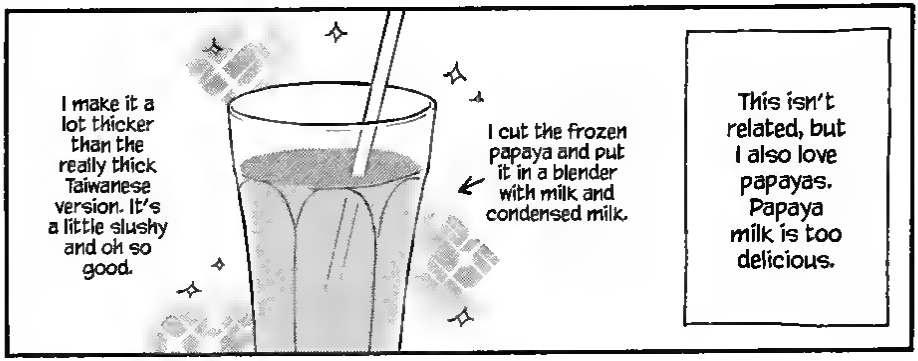
This is one of the reasons I'm so generous even though I'm living alone, Captain.
These days, they send cake, and *mentaiko*, and bread—everything frozen!!
Tee hee hee hee hee
PACKED.
I imagine a dialect
Dagnabit! The ice cream won't fit!!
And then I got yelled at.
Assistants
Back from buying things
Number 1: Pao's *kintoki* cream bread.
Fresh cream
STUFFED
Anko
Pao's montblanc is delicious, too.
The things that I got addicted to through mail order.
It's delicious but it's *super* sweet. If I eat one before a deadline, it wakes me up in more ways than one.
The blood to my brain....!!
But normally I'm satisfied after about half.
When I'm tired, I can gulp one down whole.
The first time I ate it, I was deeply moved. I love cream and *anko*.

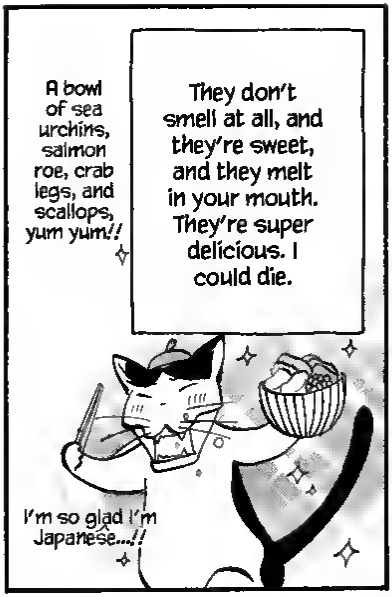

Japanese-grown fruits really are delicious.
Number 2: Various Japanese-grown fruits

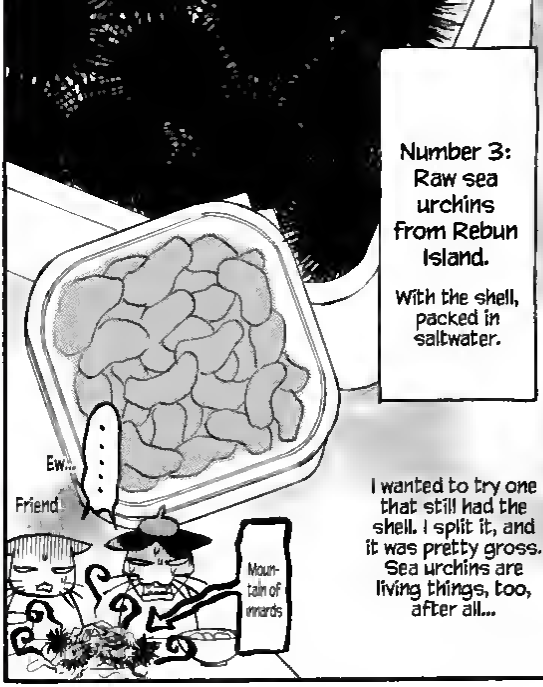
I peel peaches all the way around and bite into them at the sink.
In Tokyo, white peaches are ridiculously expensive. I wanted to try an expensive peach just once, and they really are so good I cried.
White peaches from Shikoya
Native of Okayama, who sold peaches and muscat grapes at a part-time job.
SLURP
SLURP

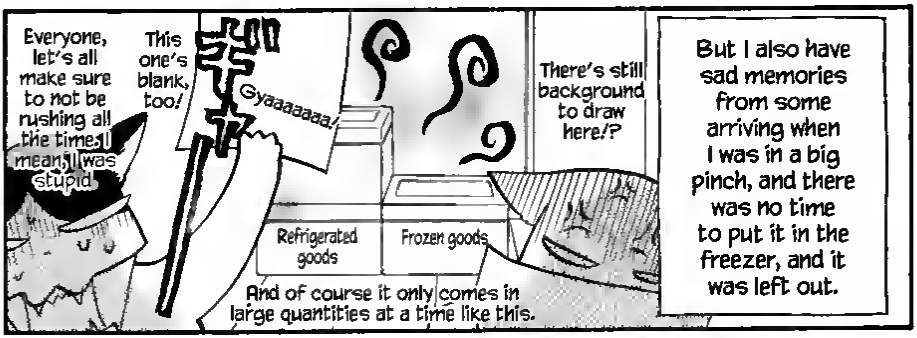

I forget where I ordered the best ones from!
I have to order some this year, too!
I ordered a whole kilo, but they were gone in an instant....
Yamagata cherries.
EMPTY

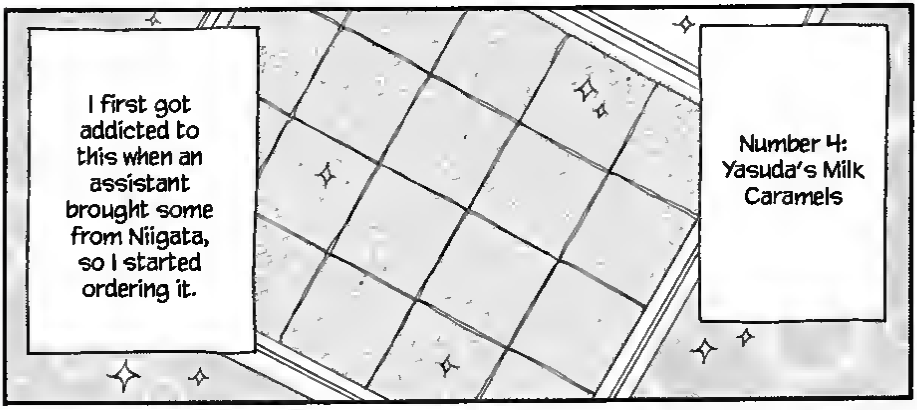
Big apple mangos are good, too, but I adore mini-mangos.
Slurp, slurp, aaaahh.
Fully ripe petite mangos from Okinawa Zanmai Tyanpuru Shop!?

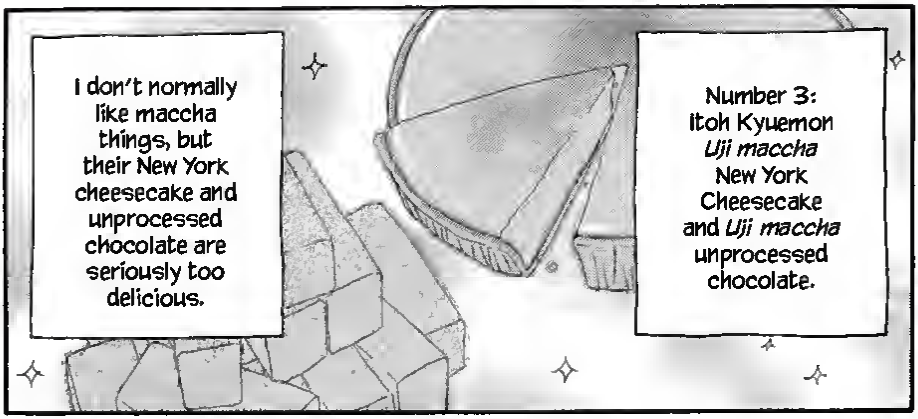

I make it a lot thicker than the really thick Taiwanese version. It's a little slushy and oh so good.
I cut the frozen papaya and put it in a blender with milk and condensed milk.
This isn't related, but I also love papayas. Papaya milk is too delicious.


A bowl of sea urchins, salmon roe, crab legs, and scallops, yum yum!!
They don't smell at all, and they're sweet, and they melt in your mouth. They're super delicious. I could die.
I'm so glad I'm Japanese...!!

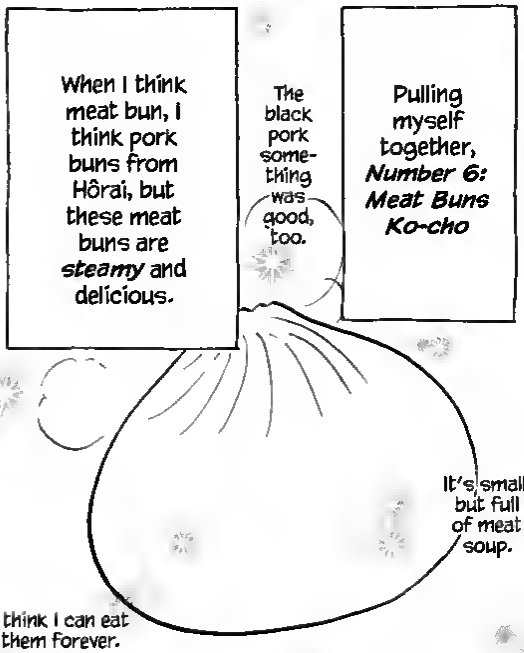

Number 3: Raw sea urchins from Rebun Island.
With the shell, packed in saltwater.
Ew...
Friend
Mountain of innards
I wanted to try one that still had the shell. I split it, and it was pretty gross. Sea urchins are living things, too, after all...


Everyone, let's all make sure to not be rushing all the time. I mean, I was stupid.
This one's blank, too!
Gyaaaaaaa!
There's still background to draw here!?
But I also have sad memories from some arriving when I was in a big pinch, and there was no time to put it in the freezer, and it was left out.
Refrigerated goods
Frozen goods
And of course it only comes in large quantities at a time like this.


I first got addicted to this when an assistant brought some from Niigata, so I started ordering it.
Number 4: Yasuda's Milk Caramels


I don't normally like maccha things, but their New York cheesecake and unprocessed chocolate are seriously too delicious.
Number 3: Itoh Kyuemon *Uji maccha* New York Cheesecake and *Uji maccha* unprocessed chocolate.

I'm sitting all the time, so I'm clearly taking in too many calories. I wish I could draw manga while running.
Somebody stop me!
YOINK
CHOMP
Shut up. Just take the box with you already.
Working by myself in my room
Refrigerator
The caramel and the chocolate are very sweet. They really are perfect for doping up before a deadline.


When I think meat bun, I think pork buns from Hôrai, but these meat buns are ***steamy*** and delicious.
The black pork something was good, too.
Pulling myself together, ***Number 6: Meat Buns Ko-cho***
It's small, but full of meat soup.
I think I can eat them forever. It's scary.

When I go shopping normally, I almost never buy sweet or spicy snacks for myself. Online shopping really is formidable.
I'm good at imitating Ishizuka's face from Honjamaka.
And if it's in the house, I eat it...

Incidentally, I personally really like the Kouchou home page.

Strongest Corps in the Galaxy

Galaxy Dream Team

And it rains rubies.

It strums at my heart strings.

Especially this part. Apparently it refers to them being the world champions of Chinese cooking.

Anyway, has a weakness for steamy food found in town. Especially in winter.

Huff huff

But these are fiercely good if you can get them fresh at the store instead of ordering them, so if you can, please, go to China Town in Yokohama and eat some.

World Champion Handmade Meat Bun

I ordered almost all of them with a high level of optimism, and usually they don't let me down.

I only click when I'm backed into a corner and being escapist, so I don't have much time to look...

Bliss... ♡

I also like Furano milk pudding, Sacher torte, apple pie, *gyûsuji nikomi*, and *gyûtan*.

is cat food.

Would eat anything when I first took him in, but recently is following Chibira's example.

Very picky and gets sick of things quickly

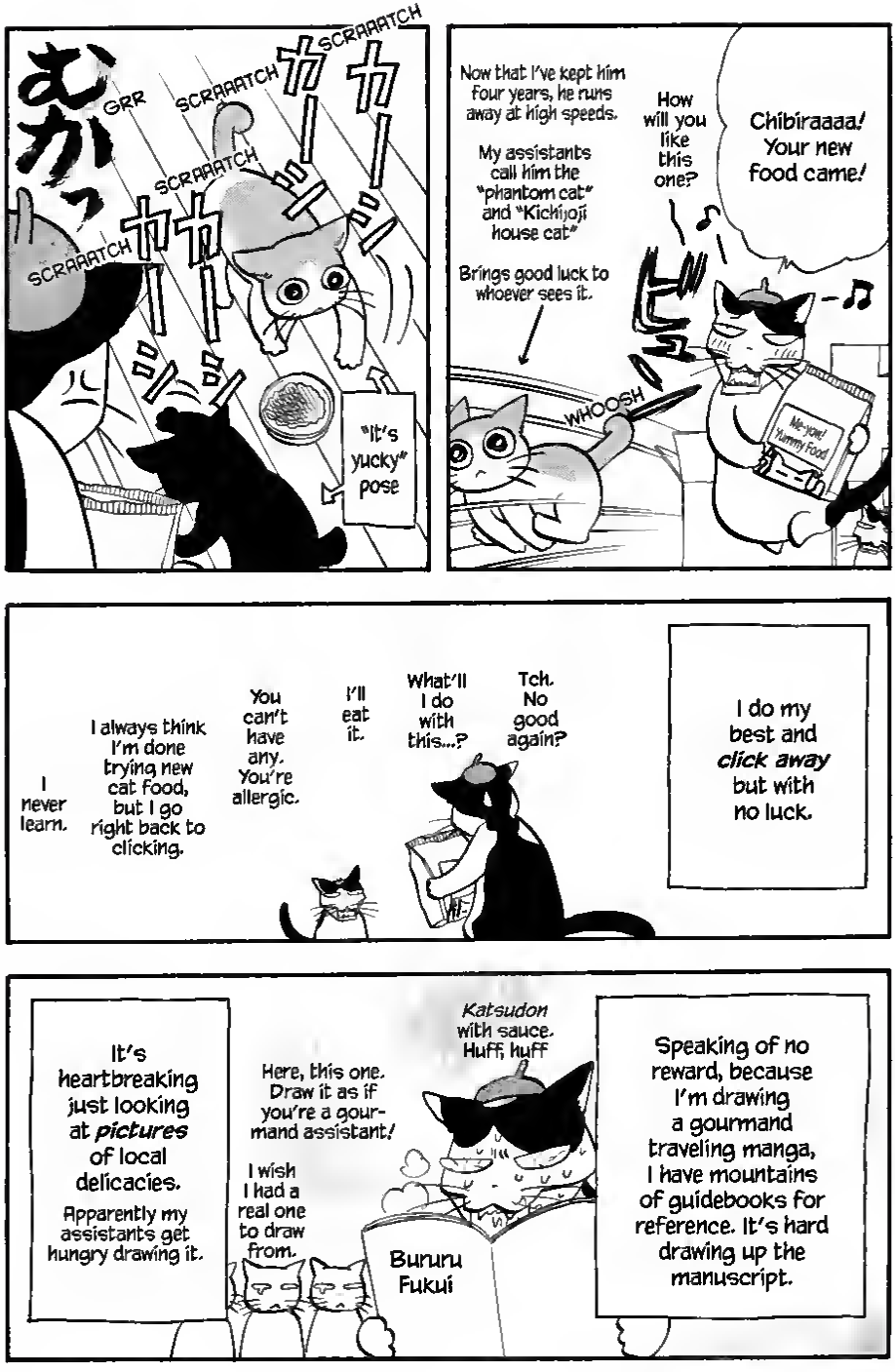
Food prescribed for allergies

But what I spend the most energy choosing and buying lots of

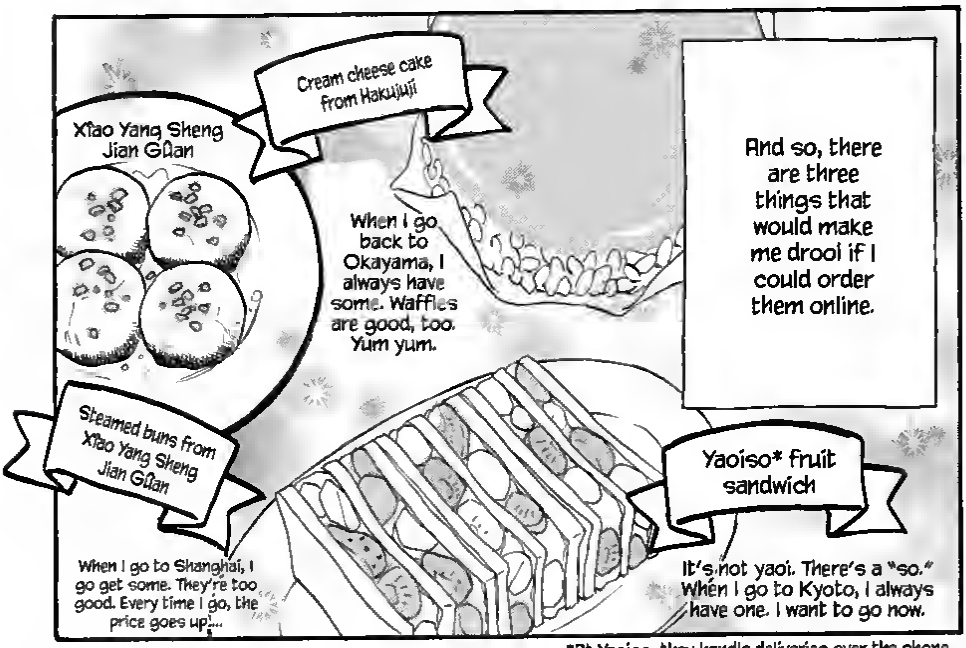
Tarezô

Chibira

Big Sister Fujio


むかっ
GRR
SCRAAATCH
SCRAAATCH
SCRAAATCH
SCRAAATCH
"It's yucky" pose
Now that I've kept him four years, he runs away at high speeds.
My assistants call him the "phantom cat" and "Kichijoji house cat"
Brings good luck to whoever sees it.
How will you like this one?
Chibiraaaa! Your new food came!
WHOOSH
Me-yow! Yummy Food
I never learn.
I always think I'm done trying new cat food, but I go right back to clicking.
You can't have any. You're allergic.
I'll eat it.
What'll I do with this...?
Tch. No good again?
I do my best and click away but with no luck.
It's heartbreaking just looking at pictures of local delicacies.
Apparently my assistants get hungry drawing it.
Here, this one. Draw it as if you're a gourmand assistant!
I wish I had a real one to draw from.
Katsudon with sauce. Huff, huff
Bururu Fukui
Speaking of no reward, because I'm drawing a gourmand traveling manga, I have mountains of guidebooks for reference. It's hard drawing up the manuscript.

I've been dreaming like that, but I don't think anything good would come of it, so I do without.
A dreaming maiden
Even just a freezer would be nice.
I wish I had a bigger refrigerator.
Now that I'm addicting to *clicking*


Xiao Yang Sheng Jian Guan
Cream cheese cake from Hakuijuji
When I go back to Okayama, I always have some. Waffles are good, too. Yum yum.
And so, there are three things that would make me drool if I could order them online.
Steamed buns from Xiao Yang Sheng Jian Guan
When I go to Shanghai, I go get some. They're too good. Every time I go, the price goes up!...
Yaoiso* fruit sandwich
It's not yaoi. There's a "so." When I go to Kyoto, I always have one. I want to go now.

*At Yaoiso, they handle deliveries over the phone.

The information from this manga is from January 2007

Why don't you finish the manga early so you can go eat some?
They're super perishable...
Three whole things? Impossible.
DOKI
DOKI
To those concerned, I hope to hear good news.

The End

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Mame-daifuku, page 2

Mame-daifuku is a rice cake stuffed with bean jam, much like the one stuffed in Hana's mouth.

Kitakaro baumkuchen, page 6

Kitakaro is a famous confectionary in Hokkaido that makes all kinds of Western desserts, including the *baumkuchen*, a layered cake from Germany known as the "King of Cakes."

Grasshopper *tsukudani*, page 22

Tsukudani refers to food preserved by boiling it in soy sauce and sugar to give it a salty-sweet taste.

Kokkuri-san and Cupid-sama, pages 28 and 29

Kokkuri-san and Cupid-sama are Japanese variations of a Ouija board. For Kokkuri-san, because in Japanese tradition foxes, or *kitsune*, are thought to have supernatural powers, it is believed that the marker, often a coin, is moved not by a spirit of the dead, but by the spirit of a fox, called Kokkuri-san. In most legends, foxes are female. The board the hockey club used in their past Kokkuri-san adventure uses Japanese characters instead of the alphabet. Cupid-sama is very similar, only a pencil is used instead of a coin, and the board includes the special Japanese markings that change syllables' pronunciation for more accurate readings. So while Johnny Depp would be spelled "Shi-yo-ni Te-fu" on a Kokkuri-san board, the Cupid-sama board could change it to "Jiyonii Depu."

N vs ", page 31

On a Kokkuri-san board, Kinta and Ginta's names would be indicated exactly the same way, "Ki-N-Ta," but thanks to the new features on the Cupid-sama board, if the indicator goes to the " marks, the Ki changes to a Gi. So if the pencil goes straight to N, that means Yukio likes Kinta, but if it goes to the ", then she likes Ginta.

Kan ji zai bo satsu..., page 33

Fearing that Hana is possessed, Izumi's first reaction is to start a religious chant to repel the evil spirit. This particular chant is the Japanese version of the Buddhist Heart Sutra, commonly chanted in Zen Buddhist ceremonies.

Mushroom, Bombaye!!, page 43

"Bombaye" means "Kill him!" or "Beat him up!" in Lingala. It's popular as a chant at sporting events, particularly boxing matches.

Kinoko no Yama, page 44

Kinoko no Yama, meaning "mushroom mountain," is the name of a popular Japanese chocolate snack. As shown on the box, this snack is made to look like little mushrooms. The stems are made of little cookies, while the umbrella-like part is made of chocolate.

Takenoko no Sato, page 45

Takenoko no Sato, meaning "bamboo shoot village," is like the brother candy of *Kinoko no Yama*. It's a little cookie surrounded in chocolate that's made to look like a little bamboo shoot.

Moe, page 61

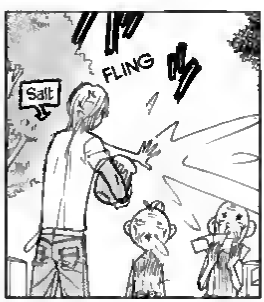
Moe is a phrase used by fanboys and fangirls to describe the type of character from an anime or video game that they have a particular attraction to, and the strong feelings that those characters inspire. Such characters include, but are not limited to, maids and catgirls. Something like a Maid Café would take advantage of *moe* to attract customers.

Ojou-sama, page 64

Ojou-sama is a respectful way of addressing someone of a higher social status, but lower age, than your own, especially the daughter of a family where one works as a maid, butler, etc. Any girl going to a butler café can expect to be addressed in this manner, and would probably enjoy it as a compliment.

Salt, page 82

In the Shinto religion, it is believed that salt has the power to purify, so Takashi is throwing salt in order to banish the evil that has come before him and purify his home.



Escalator school, page 85

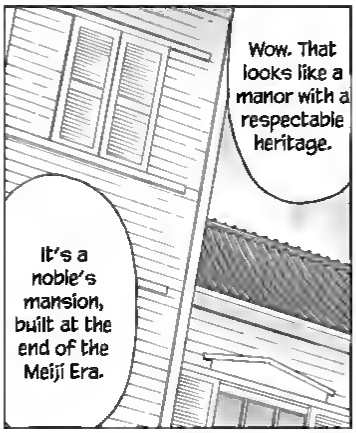
In Japan, students need to take entrance exams to get into most high schools and colleges, but an escalator school has middle school, high school, and even college divisions, so if someone is attending that school in high school, they can go on to college without having to work too hard.

Mt. Osore, *itako*, and *kuchiyose*, pages 85 and 86

As Mar-tan says, Mt. Osore, literally "Mt. Fear," is one of the three most haunted places in Japan. This would be a perfect place to have a special priestess called an *itako* perform a *kuchiyose*, a ritual in which she will summon the spirits of the dead and speak for them.

Meiji Era, page 88

The Meiji Era refers to the period of time in which the emperor of Japan was Emperor Meiji, from 1868 to 1912. This is the period when Japan opened up to the West and began a major period of modernization.



Yôkai, page 89

Yôkai is a general term for all kinds of supernatural creatures found in Japan. Seeing this woman, Izumi assumes that she must be more monster than human.

Analog, page 95

Takashi calls Hana an "analog" for two reasons. First, in Japan, people who shy away from new technology, especially digital technology, are referred to as "analog people," and since Hana clearly doesn't know that you don't hit newer technology, she must be one of them. And second, he's saying that while Izumi is not an old, analog appliance, Hana is.

Sembei soup, page 91

To answer Hana's question, *sembei* soup is a kind of Japanese soup made by taking the broth from meat, fish, vegetables, etc. and breaking up *sembei*, rice crackers, into it.

Showa Era, page 97

The Showa Era refers to the period of time in which the emperor of Japan was Emperor Showa. His reign began in 1926 and ended in 1989. So the beginning of the Showa Era would be the late 1920s.

Rokkon Shôjô, page 108

Literally "six root purification," *rokkon shôjô* refers to the cleansing of the six roots of perception—eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, and mind. Takashi uses this as a chant to cleanse Izumi of the spirit that is possessing him.

Densuke watermelon, page 125

Densuke watermelon are a special breed of watermelon with a hard black skin grown in Hokkaido. They're known for being very sweet.

The prince and his handkerchief, page 126

The famous Japanese baseball player Yuki Saito is also known in Japan as the Handkerchief Prince, because he wipes the sweat from his forehead with a handkerchief instead of with his sleeve. Because Hana doesn't see real princes very often, she assumes they're talking about him.

Futon, page 131

Unlike the futons we use in America, a Japanese futon has two parts. The thicker part is laid on the floor and used as a mattress, while the thinner part is used as a blanket. In the morning, it's all rolled up and put away. This kind of bedding is way too Japanese for the Japan-hating prince.

Masuseki and *Maku-no-uchi bentô*, page 133

Masuseki are special box seats where you sit on cushions to watch sumo tournaments. Paying for the special seating would also get the hockey club a special *maku-no-uchi bentô*, a boxed lunch named for the *maku-no-uchi* top division of professional sumo wrestlers.

Meat on the forehead, page 135

Karl may have gotten the idea of writing the Chinese character *niku*, meaning "meat" or "muscle," from the anime series *Kinnikuman*, or *Ultimate Muscle*, as it's known in America. The hero, Kinnikuman (or Suguru Muscle), has the character on his forehead because he is a muscle man. Translating it to "meat" can also mean that the cat is meat (or dead meat), or will be when the writing is completed. Because the character is unfinished, it looks like the character *uchi*, which means "inside."

Shimofuri sukiyaki and *shabu-shabu*, page 137

Sukiyaki and *shabu-shabu* are both kinds of Japanese stew in which the main ingredient is thin slices of beef. *Shimofuri*, meaning "frost," is fat-marbled beef—the best kind of beef to use for sukiyaki.

Electric Town and Otaku Town, page 140

Akihabara, or Akiba for short, is a district in Tokyo known for selling lots of computer and electronic goods, but also for selling a lot of anime and otaku, or anime geek, goods, so these would both be nicknames for the area.

Canned *oden*, page 141

Oden is another kind of Japanese stew with various ingredients, including eggs, tofu, daikon radish, etc. Pre-made, canned *oden* is one of the novelties you can find in Akihabara.

Raoh and the Zeon Army, page 142

Raoh is the villain of the famous manga/anime series, *Fist of the North Star*, and the Zeon Army is from the famed Gundam series. Since they're in Akihabara, the Ayuharas decide they might as well get some anime merchandise.

Bishôjo figures, page 144

Bishôjo means "beautiful young girl." A *bishôjo* figure would be a figurine of such a girl. These figures are sometimes just pretty statues, but often depict the girl in a very alluring position.

Natsu-yakko and Hana-yakko, page 146

Geisha often use stage names, so Natsuki and Hana are following their example. *Yakko*, meaning "person" (especially in reference to a servant), was a well-known geisha name ending.

Yakyûken, page 146

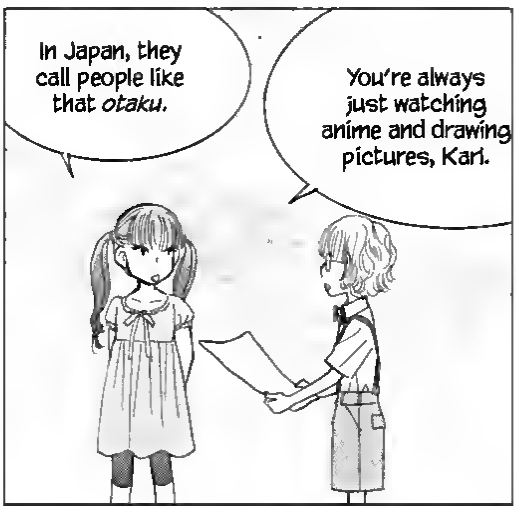
Yakyûken is the name of the game that Izumi describes to Prince Karl. It literally means "baseball fist," and started as a game between two company sports teams. The "fist" refers to "rock-paper-scissors," and originally the game involved singing and dancing to the song the hockey club sings, but no stripping.

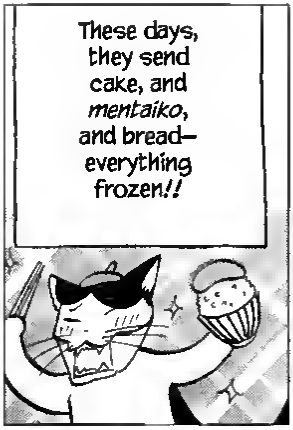
Oscar the Wild Bear, page 154

This is a parody of the anime series *Rascal the Raccoon*. The term *araiguma* refers to a kind of raccoon, but can literally mean "wild bear."

Otaku, page 155

Japanese for geek or nerd, especially one who is obsessed with something, usually anime.





Mentaiko, page 164

Mentaiko is a spicy dish made from the eggs of pollock or codfish and red pepper.

Kintoki cream bread and *anko*, page 164

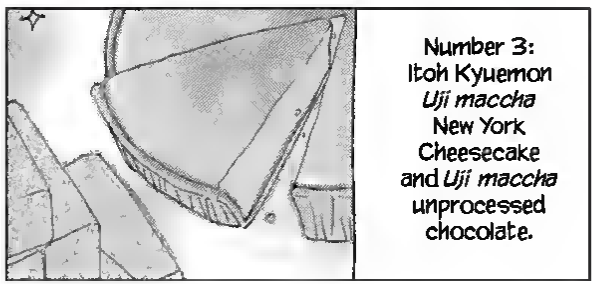
The Hockey Club ate this very treat at the beginning of volume six. *Kintoki* is a kind of red bean, and *anko* is the general term for red bean paste or jam. In other words, these treats are made with *anko* from *kintoki* beans.

Honjamaka, page 167

Honjamaka is the name of a Japanese comedy duo. Ishizuka plays the stooge to Megumi's straight man, and his face looks like the one Morinaga-sensei has drawn.

Uji maccha, page 167

Uji maccha is a very high quality brand of *maccha*, or Japanese green tea. Itoh Kyuemon sells all kinds of desserts made with *Uji maccha*, and they're all very green in color.



Sacher torte, *gyûsuji nikomi*, and *gyûtan*, page 168

Sacher torte is a kind of Austrian chocolate layer cake; *gyûsuji nikomi*, roughly "stewed beef dish," is a dish of beef and vegetables; and *gyûtan* is beef tongue.

Katsudon, page 169

Katsudon is breaded pork on rice.